

**NWX-US DEPT OF COMMERCE**

**Moderator: Gregory Pewett  
November 27, 2018  
1:00 pm CT**

Coordinator: Good afternoon and thank you all for standing by. For the duration of today's conference, all participants' lines are on a listen-only mode until the question-and-answer session. At that time if you would like to ask a question, press Star 1.

Today's call is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. It is my pleasure to introduce Ms. Moniqua Roberts. Thank you, ma'am, you may begin.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: Thank you, operator. Good afternoon and welcome to the American Community Survey Webinar. Today's Webinar is focused-on helping you prepare for the release of the 2013-2017 ACS five-year data product.

Before I proceed, I'd like to say a special thank you to our American Community Survey respondents for their participation in this survey. Without them we would not have these data which are so important for America's communities.

I'm Moniqua Roberts-Gray, Public Affairs Specialist with the Public Information Office. This Webinar is designed to help you prepare for the release of the 2017 ACS five-year data product. Our presenter is Camille Ryan. She's a Survey Statistician and the Data Product Coordinator with the social, economic and housing statistics division.

At the end of this presentation, we'll open-up the line for questions. After a brief question period, Camille will do a demonstration of American FactFinder. There will be an opportunity for news media and others to ask questions after her presentation so without further delay let me present Camille.

Camille Ryan: Thank you, Moniqua. Here's an overview of what we're planning to cover today. First I'll talk a little bit about next week's American Community Survey data release and our upcoming January release. I'll give a brief overview of the American Community Survey with some basics on ACS five-year estimates and cover what's changed since last year.

I walk through some of the American Community Survey data and documentation as well as various tools used to access our products and where you can find much of the information covered in today's Webinar.

After a question-and-answer session, I'll give a quick walk-through of how to access block group level data in American FactFinder or AFF and please note that for the question-and-answer-session we'll give first priority for questions to journalists on the line who are preparing news stories for the release.

We would also ask that others who have questions hold those until the second round of Q&A which will follow the American FactFinder block group demo so for upcoming ACS release, next Tuesday the 2013 through '17 ACS five-

year data will be available for early access embargo and publicly released next Thursday.

These estimates cover the 2013 through 2017 time period for all geographic areas regardless of population size, creating over 3.8 billion five-year estimates. Our media embargo will be available Tuesday, December the 4th at 10:00 am Eastern Standard Time. Available through our embargo site for approved media will be all products on American FactFinder.

Please note that also available during the embargo period will be the five-year comparison profiles. Our public release again will be on Thursday, December the 6th at 12:01 Eastern Standard Time. In addition to the five-year tables and the five-year summary files, the rest of our data products will be available.

They include our America profiles available through the ACS Web site and existing tools that would be refreshed with the five-year data such as API and Quick Facts.

Specifics for this release, we have products that highlight a few of more than 35 social, economic, housing and demographic topics including computer and Internet use, commuting, income, poverty, growth rate and language characteristics with a focus on comparison of non-overlapping years 2008 through '12 and 2013 through 2017.

Topics to include topics include income, poverty and computer and Internet use numbers. In addition, America (top slots) will cover the exploration of one of the questions found on the ACS related to poverty and median income households and broadband use.

Sixteen new (brackets) will be available including income and poverty which focuses-on changes at the county level for the two non-overlapping sets of data, again 2008 through '12 and 2013 through '17. Looking at both poverty, race and changes in median household income and computer and Internet use will be available through county-level maps that show distribution of Internet use by urban and rural areas and by age group.

To highlight five-year trends, we will have an interactive visualization tool that will show data at the county level. Although the focus of this Webinar is our five-year release, I want to take the opportunity to promote two other products that will be coming-out on January 17th, 2019 that are also part of the five-year dataset.

First our 2013 through '17 ACS five-year public use microdata samples or PUMS. The ACS PUMS files are a set of untabulated records about individual people or housing units that are created for public use microdata areas or PUMA which contain at least 100,000 people.

These files allow data users to create custom tables that are not available through a pre-tabulated ACS data product. Second our 2013 through '17 various replicate activist tables will be released in January. This product was first released in 2016 for the 2010 through '14 ACS five-year data release.

Initially there were 108 tables and currently there are 111. These tables allow data users to calculate margins of error which include the covariance terms when combining ACS estimates with this table or between geographies. This is different from the approximation formulas for calculating margins of error that we provide on our Web site.

The approximation formulas do not include the covariance term. Each variance replicate table includes a set of 80 variance replicate estimates for selected American Community Survey five-year detailed tables. This product is for the very experienced data user. Access is available via the FTP with links available on AFF.

For those people who aren't familiar with our survey, here is some basic information to be aware of. The American Community Survey is the nation's most current reliable and accessible data source for local statistics on critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income and employment.

The survey samples approximately 3.5 million (actions). These data are collected continuously throughout the year to produce annual social, economic, housing and demographic estimates. The ACS is also used to distribute more than \$675 billion of federal government spending each year.

The ACS is designed to produce critical information on small areas in small population groups previously collected once every 10 years as part of the decennial Census long form. With the introduction of ACS, communities and businesses receive more current data and the Census questionnaire sent to all residents every 10 years has been significantly shortened.

Our estimates covering more than 35 topics support more than 300 known federal uses and countless non-federal uses. This assists in communities you see (unintelligible) each year to make vital decisions including where to locate hospitals and schools, what transportation needs exist and what goods or services this should provide to customers.

We release three different sets of estimates each year in the form of one-year and five-year period datasets as well as the one-year supplemental estimate. I will discuss these data products in more detail on an upcoming slide.

The current data collected by the American Community Survey can be grouped into four main types of characteristics: social, economic, housing and demographic so let's take a closer look at the type of information each of these categories contain.

Social characteristics include topics such as education, marital status, disability status, language spoken at home, migration and others. The American Community Survey also collects basic demographic characteristics such as sex, age, race and Hispanic origin. Economic characteristics include such topics as employment status, income, community work, occupation, industry and others.

Housing characteristics include topics such as tenure, information about occupancy and the structure itself, home value, housing costs which include mortgages, taxes and insurance, utilities and plumbing and kitchen facilities and others such as (trends). These topics are used to produce more than 1000 tables for local communities each year.

Specifically, for this release we are focusing-on our latest five-year estimates. It's important to understand the concept of a period estimate because all ACS estimates are period estimates. Period estimates describe the characteristics of an area over a specific time period, not a single point in time as in the case with the decennial Census.

In the case of ACS one-year estimate, the period is one calendar year. The estimates in the five-year release describe the population in housing

characteristics from January 1st, 2013 through December 31st, 2017. Five-year estimates are not an average of the one-year ACS estimate. The ACS survey data are pooled together across 60 months for the five-year data.

After the data are pulled together, they're updated with the geographic boundaries of the last year of the period, in this case 2017 and then assigned the appropriate weight to produce population and housing estimates.

Weights are adjusted using the population and housing totals controlled for age, sex, race and Hispanic origin which are derived from the Census Bureau's population estimates program. Finally, income in dollar estimates are then adjusted for inflation based on the most recent year of the period.

The latest five-year estimates are adjusted to 2017 dollars. Part of understanding the five-year estimate is understanding the rest of the ACS releases. The availability of our ACS data products depends on the population size that lives in a geographic area.

As you can see, we produce data for larger areas, those with 55,000 or more people using data from one calendar year. The 2017 ACS one-year estimates were released on September the 13th, 2018. ACS one-year supplemental estimates are about 16 detailed tables that are available for geographic areas with populations of 20,000 or more.

The Census Bureau creates this product to respond to data users' needs for timely data at smaller geographies. In smaller simplified versions or popular ACS tables focused-on key topics, the supplemental estimates provide more current data and annual updates to almost twice as many geographies as compared to the standard one-year release for geographies with populations above 20,000.

The 2017 ACS one-year supplemental estimates were released on October 18th, 2018 and finally for the five-year estimates we pull ACS responses received over five calendar years. Using a larger set of responses allows us to produce higher quality statistics for all geographies regardless of population size. The 2013 through '17 ACS five-year estimates will be released on December the 6th.

So as you've seen, you'd use five-year estimates when no one year or one-year supplemental estimate is available. Unless the geographic area has a population greater than or equal to 65,000 or there's a supplemental table available for those populations of 20,000 or more, that geography will have to rely on the five-year estimate.

Second in general you'll want to use five-year estimate when the margins of error for the annual estimate are larger than desired. A margin of error is a measure of family variability which are presented next to all ACS estimates. For example, five-year estimates are helpful when analyzing small population groups because of the higher margins of error associated with them.

Also if you're comparing several geographies and one or more of those geographies don't have a one-year estimate available due to the population size, you will have to use the five-year estimate. Now if you're interested in comparing five-year data, we encourage you to make comparisons only with non-overlapping data.

This year if you could compare the 2013 through '17 five-year data with the 2008 through '12 five-year data. These non-overlapping datasets allow a comparison of unique data with unique data so only compare estimates of the

same datasets. For example, compare one-year only with one-year and compare five-year only with other five-year non-overlapping data.

Users should not compare one-year estimates with five-year estimates. The five-year estimates are helpful when you compare across geographies because all geographies are represented in the five-year and the (pulse) is one-year where geographies don't all make the one-year population threshold.

For example, all counties are available in the five-year regardless of population size. Similarly, five-year estimates are also great for making comparison or across subpopulation like ancestry and language group. Finally, when making comparisons we recommend comparing (definitive) lean medians and (rights) instead of (having) totals whenever possible.

So those are the basics of our survey and now I must talk a little bit about the geographies and the products available in the five-year ACS data as well as what's new and notable for this release. First, the geographies. The five-year estimates include all geographic areas down to the block group level, over 578,000 geographic areas and 87 different summary levels available for five-year.

Unlike the one-year ACS releases, geographies do not have to meet a particular population threshold in order to be published. Geographies in the five-year release including station, all states, D.C. and Puerto Rico, all metropolitan areas, all Congressional districts with the monitored (15) covered.

All counties and places, all tracts and block groups, block groups are the smallest level of geography produced by ACS and now for the data products. The five-year release consists of the following data products located in

American FactFinder or AFF. Data profiles show selected estimates and percentages for a particular geography on a variety of topics in one table.

These are profiles for social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics as well as selected social characteristics in Puerto Rico. Geographic comparison tables or GCTs. These tables allow you to easily compare geographies to one another. Subject tables contain estimates of percentages with detailed info by topic and detailed tables.

The detailed tables contain estimates and margins of error only organized by topic and are remote detail tables in the product package. Detailed table size geography are also available in the five-year summary files. Other products reside on different sites and will be available also on Thursday, December the 6th, for example the (narrative) profile.

Since its API, QuickFacts and My Tribal Area will also be refreshed with the 2013 and 2017 five-year data on December the 6th. Census Business Builder will be refreshed with the 2013 through 2017 five-year data in the upcoming weeks following that.

This year we have 77 new detailed tables and two new subject tables that cover a variety of topics. First we have computer and Internet use. Data about computer and Internet use were first collected in 2013, therefore this is the first time that the five-year tables will be available for this topic.

The new detailed tables provide basic estimates of computer and Internet use as well as estimates broken-down by characteristics such as household income, age, educational attainment and labor force. Tables B28009 A through I also provide estimates by race and Hispanic origin. Tables for allocation rates are also provided for this topic.

Two new subject tables and 55 new detailed tables were added for group quarter. Previous tables displayed a limited number of characteristics for the group quarter population. In addition, only three major types of group quarters were displayed, specifically correctional facilities, (unintelligible) facilities and student housing.

Table F2602 allows data users to examine a wide variety of characteristics, other group quarters populations beyond age or sex including disability status, educational attainment and earnings. This table focuses-on the three major type (unintelligible) previous years.

F2603 also provides information about characteristics for juvenile facilities and military quarters in addition to the other three types of group quarters mentioned. Data users should also note that Table F2603 will replace 2601E which has been deleted.

Two new tables provide more information about the number of earners in the family, Tables B19122 and median earnings for full-time workers, Table B20018. In addition, Table C27021 is a new table that shows health insurance by three types of living arrangements, living and married couple families, living and other families and living in non-family households and other living arrangements.

Data users should also note that tables for these six ACS topics also have modifications. To see details about the changes including all table IDs affected and descriptions of the table's specific change, data users can visit the link listed at the bottom of the slide for table and geography changes.

We also have another exciting highlight for this year's release. For many topics, we will have comparable data for both non-overlapping periods for the first time. Topics such as health insurance coverage, educational attainment and year built now have comparable data for both 2008 through '12 and 2013 through 2017.

All of the tables that I've just discussed are available on our main dissemination tool for ACS, American FactFinder or AFF and you can AFF at [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov). We talked about the five-year summary file also being available for next week during our embargo period.

This product is intended for advanced data users and includes all the estimates and margins of error from the detailed tables and geographies that are published for the ACS in a downloadable format. To access these data, go to the ACS Web site at [census.gov/acs](http://census.gov/acs). On (the mets) navigation area, select data, then select summary file data, take your year of interest from the tab.

Here we're using the 2016 tab but when you when it's updated on December the 6th you will be able to select the 2017 tab and then you want to select the five-year summary file. If you're trying to access the summary files during the embargo period, you'll need to access it through the (press view). Now a little more about the products that will be available on release day.

The five-year narrative profile is one of our more popular products. It is not available in American FactFinder but it's available on the ACS Web site. This project is a pre-generated report that describes the geographic area, providing text and graphics for about 15 different ACS topic areas.

Users can choose to produce a report on all 15 topics or just a subset for selected geographies. These reports help novice users to interpret the data. A

direct link to the site is available at the bottom of the screen. We encourage data users to visit the narrative profiles again because they have been revamped with multiple improvements for this release.

First there's been an overall refresh of the look and feel, also charts and text have been updated for several existing topics. In addition, new topics have also been added for 2017 such as computer and Internet use and a narrative about the percent of households that receive supplemental nutritional assistance program or SNAP.

Next we have API and API stands for application programming interface and this is a tool for collecting the variables in data that we need in raw format from the Census Bureau's ever-increasing pool of datasets. It's a tool that presents data in a standardized frame.

By standardizing the API query language across multiple datasets, the learning curve for developers is reduced. Researchers and developers from both inside and outside the Census use the API because of its simple format. It provides greater ease for inputting, presenting and manipulating data in whatever format you choose.

With the API you can select any variable in multiple datasets and place them in raw format for the format of your choice. The API includes many Census Bureau datasets including the ACS one-year and five-year datasets as well as the ACS migration flows and supplemental data.

If you're interested in learning more about the API, you can visit on Webinar on Using the Census API with the American Community Survey from this past June on the ACS Web site and the link for that is provided at the bottom

of the slide. As I mentioned, several of our data tools will also be refreshed with the 2013 through 2017 ACS five-year data.

QuickFacts and My Tribal Area are planned to be updated with the data on Thursday, on that Thursday. QuickFacts is an easy-to-use application that shows tables, maps and charts for our most frequently requested information for more than 10 Census surveys and programs.

My Tribal Area is a newer application. It's very similar to the look and feel of My Congressional District. The My Tribal Area gives five-year ACS characteristics estimates for tribal areas by geography and in the coming weeks we'll have the 2013 through 2017 five-year (unintelligible) refreshed for the Census Business Builder.

Census Business Builder is a mapping tool geared towards small business owners interested in starting or expanding a business. You can access these tools and more by visiting [census.gov](https://www.census.gov), click-on explore data, then click data tools and apps. The URL is also at the bottom of the slide.

Now we've talked about the products for the release and where you can find them and now I'll show you where you can find some of the helpful documentation about the ACS. The best place to find information on the ACS is from the ACS Web site at [census.gov/acs](https://www.census.gov/acs).

The tabs at the left help guide to what you need including news and updates, data, guidance for data users, technical documentation and so on so I will highlight a couple of useful pages. Information for the 2017 data release is under news and updates.

This section gives you a variety of information specific for this release all in one place such as the release schedule and the table changes that we just talked about. We also recap what's new and notable for each release and here is the technical documentation page.

In the left navigation bar under technical documentation there's a list of important documentation that will help you better understand the ACS data including links to code lists or detailed codes for variables such as ancestry and occupation, subject definitions which further define exactly what the variables mean, (pulse) documentation, summary file documentation and also links to user notes and (errata) notes.

Since ACS questions and content can change over time, if you're interested in making comparisons, please refer to the comparison guidance documentation on the ACS Web site. To access our comparison documentation pages, from the left-hand navigation guide you want to click-on guidance for data users then underneath that select comparing ACS data.

A dropdown will be provided for the year so once the 2017 data is released, you'll click-on 2017 and then in the first paragraph - the first full paragraph in the middle of the page - you will see a link comparing five-year data to other non-overlapping five-year data where it says five-year to five-year comparison guide.

Comparisons over time become tricky because the questionnaire changes in different universe definitions. When trying to make comparisons, it's important to reference this documentation first to make sure that the data that you're (issuing) in should be compared.

For example, the definitions for urban and rural change every 10 years but that they're different in 2011 through '15 than they were for 2006 through '10 data. It's suggested that you use caution when making past-year comparisons.

And on that note, when you're writing your stories and making comparisons between years or between geographies, we always want to make certain that estimates are statistically different from one another so we introduced the statistical testing tool to help you out.

The tool that's located under guidance for data users, then clicking-on statistical testing tool. For media, a link to this tool is available in your prep kit and now I'll turn it over to Moniqua for the first round of questions.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: Thank you. Before we take questions, I want to let you know that today's presentation is now or will very shortly be available through the press kit section on the newsroom on census.gov. An archived version of this Webinar will also be posted within the next few days. Now we're going to pause and take questions before we move-on to our next topic.

Coordinator: Thank you. If you would like to ask a question, please unmute your phone, press star 1 and record your name clearly so I may introduce you. If you wish to withdraw your question at any time, you may do so by pressing star 2. Again to ask a question, press star 1. Our first question comes from (Bernie Langer) with (Policy Map). Your line is open.

(Bernie Langer): Hi, I was wondering for the new indicators on computer and Internet access, what geographies are those going to be available at? Will they be small geographies like block group and Census tract?

Camille Ryan: Just one second.

Man: Computer and Internet data will be available down to the Census tract level. We will not have block groups available for this release but for all of the geographies we will have.

(Bernie Langer): Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question is from (Christian Milmeau) with the Portland (unintelligible). Your line is open.

(Christian Milmeau): Hi, thanks. I was wondering on what's your opinion on comparing those five-year estimates against the 100% sample from the 2010 decennial Census?

Camille Ryan: Hi, this is Gretchen Gooding from American Community Survey office. We do have guidance on our Web site about what you can compare back to the 20 I think it's Census 2000. I think also 2010 Census is on there so you can take a look at that and it's broken-out for each topic.

(Christian Milmeau): Thanks.

Coordinator: Our next question is from Michael Davidson with the Las Vegas Review Journal. Go ahead, your line is open.

Michael Davidson: Hi there so this is our first time using like this five-year Census data. Are there any additional training materials you would suggest, you know, reviewing before the embargoed information comes-out whether that's video or just reading-up on it?

Gretchen Gooding: This is Gretchen again. We do have a handbook for general data users. It was revised this year. It came-out in July so it's on our Web site,

census.gov/acs and I think it's under guidance for data users and then training handbook and that's probably a good read if you're trying to get caught up-to-speed on the ACS.

Woman: You're welcome.

Coordinator: And our next question is from (Katrina Means) with the Montana Department of Transportation. You may ask your question.

(Katrina Means): Under your economic industry and occupation, is the information or data available by the EEO 4 major categories under the composition of sex, gender, ethnic group and race?

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: Are you still there, caller?

(Katrina Means): Yes, I am.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: I was going to say this is Moniqua from the (unintelligible) question to pio@census.gov and I'll get the subject matter expert to answer that for you.

(Katrina Means): Okay, that sounds good, thank you.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: Thank you for your question.

Coordinator: And please standby for incoming questions. Our next question is from (Diana Lavry) with ERSI. You may ask your question.

(Diana Lavry): Thanks, I was wondering if the data on the API will be refreshed at the same time as FactFinder. Is that 10:00 am on the 6th?

Camille Ryan: Yes, the APIs should be refreshed at the same time as the rest of the data.

(Diana Lavry): Okay, so 10:00 am or is it at 12:01 am?

Camille Ryan: Looking around the room.

Woman: It should be available the embargoed information and public release goes-out at 12:01 am and I want to say the API is updated the next morning by 10:00 am.

(Diana Lavry): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question is from (Eugene Tauver) from the Morning Call. You may ask your question.

(Eugene Tauver): Yes, hi. With the changes or additions of additional group quarter categories, is it not advisable to compare group quarter populations from previous ACS releases?

Camille Ryan: Just one second (unintelligible).

Nathan Walters: Hey, this is Nathan Walters, ACS coordination staff. You can't compare the group 4's population table to the previously-released tables. The additional tables this year are just providing additional detail that had not been provided previously so for the groups that were available this year and in previous years, they're perfectly comparable.

(Eugene Tauver): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: And again if you would like to ask a question, press star 1, unmute your phone and record your name clearly when prompted. Please standby for incoming questions. Our next question is from (Jeff Trissen) with (Skill Trend). Your line is open.

(Jeff Trissen): Yes, is the data available at the detailed occupational level in the one-year PUMS data?

Gretchen Gooding: Are you referring to, yes, if you could e-mail [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov), we can definitely follow-up with you further with the subject matter experts to answer that question.

(Jeff Trissen): Okay, all right. Thank you.

Gretchen Gooding: No problem. Operator, are there any other callers?

Coordinator: And again press star 1 if you have a question. Please standby and our next question is from Chad Bennett with Washington Student Council.

Chad Bennett: Hi, we actually had two quick questions, one by (Holly Cohen).

(Holly Cohen): Sure, yes, if you could direct me towards any guidance on the Web site as to how the poverty-to-income ratio is calculated?

Camille Ryan: That's the first one, okay. And then go ahead, Chad.

Chad Bennett: And my question realizing that when using PUMS the estimates are not going to be comparable to the tables that are posted but is there a place that has how all of the methodologies for each table is being calculated, for instance if there are particular dimensional fields that are being used to filter things out?

Ashley Edwards: So in response to the first question - this is Ashley Edwards, Chief of Poverty Statistics Branch - you can visit the census.gov poverty Web site but just briefly the income-to-poverty ratios are calculated by dividing family income by the family poverty thresholds so individuals who are in families with income below their poverty threshold would have income-to-poverty ratios less than one and be considered in poverty. Does that answer your question?

(Holly Cohen): Yes, thank you.

(Amanda Clinic): Hi, this is (Amanda Clinic) with the American Community Survey office. In regards to the comparability of the PUMS, I'd like to direct you to on the census.gov/acs Web site, if you go to guidance for data users and then under PUMS documentation you should see there will be a document for accuracy of the PUMS. It's for each year and there should be some guidance in that.

There will also be we provide some estimates that you can use to calculate your own estimates and compare those. If you have any specific subject matter questions, please feel free to address those specific questions to pio@census.gov and we will make sure to get a subject matter expert to get back to you.

Coordinator: Our next question is from (Karen Looey) with the California Department of Finance. Your line is open.

(Karen Looey): Hi, I was wondering when the next five-year selected population tables will be ready? I think the last one we (think) were 11/15. Is there a plan to have it on overlapping years?

Camille Ryan: So the product is it is a five-year product. I feel like I have the release date in my e-mail but I don't know it off the top of my head so again if you e-mail pio@census.gov, we can take a look.

(Karen Looey): Okay, thank you.

Camille Ryan: We think 2022, we're not sure. We can look that up.

Coordinator: And our next question is from (Jim Chane) with the State of Arizona. Your line is open.

(Jim Chane): Hi, I have two quick questions. The first one is you have on the threshold of publishing one-year data and also the one-year supplement or estimate. For the one-year supplement or estimate I tend to use like the threshold is 20,000. I saw a county that's - the county's the Census estimate - is more than 20,000 but it's not in the table and also previously I saw some counties that over 65,000 but it's not even a one-year estimate, is there a reason for those?

Camille Ryan: Is it possible that you could e-mail us at pio@census.gov and then we can find-out specifically what tables you might have been looking at and get some further information about that?

(Jim Chane): Okay, my second question is for the PUMS data, you know, you have those records. Each record, are those real records or let's say I participated in the ACS survey. If my record is selected when I look at the record of all the assets for each questions, are my answers kept in that record or have you manipulated the record to further mask the identification of the respondent?

Camille Ryan: Hi, yes, this is (Amanda Clinic) again with American Community Survey office and the PUMS are a subsample of the ACS responses that have been

through our disclosure avoidance process and stripped of all personally-identifying information so it's gone through disclosure avoidance and there is no way to trace back the individual record with the individual respondent or to identify the respondent with any of the variables given in the info.

(Jim Chane): Okay, I'm not sure if that clearly answers my question so I know you stripped away the personal identification identifying information. Let's say I answer the question not necessarily identifying my identity. Let's say my answer, do you have mixed answers from other respondents?

Camille Ryan: (Unintelligible) your final question, I'm sorry? If you could e-mail us ...

(Jim Chane): Yes, I'm saying, you know, the record after you strip away the personally-identifying information, is the rest true to the real answer?

Camille Ryan: We do have a lot of variables that have top and bottom coding so if your income for example is above a certain level, we have a top code so all values above is 100, 150, somewhere in there are top-coded so it's not like we would have your you know, individual answer of 165,000 or something like that so we do do a lot of that in the PUMS dataset.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: And sir if you're still there, I was going to say if you have additional follow-up questions that we are giving everyone an opportunity to ask one question with a follow-up, you can always send an e-mail to [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov) and we have materials that we can direct you to that can get more into the specifics that you're raising.

(Jim Chane): Okay, thank you.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: Okay, not a problem. Thank you for raising the question.  
Operator, I'm just looking at the time. We are just going to continue with the presentation and then we'll pick-up with additional questions.

Coordinator: Thank you.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: So thank you. We invite you to stay in touch by telling us how you use data from the American Community Survey. For example, have you or your organization used the ACS to make an important decision, help your community or expand your business?

Please visit the link at the bottom to share your stories and explore how data (nerds) across the country are using ACS data in various creative ways. Due to the timing we're going to turn the presentation back to Camille. She'll show a quick demonstration on accepting the block group data using the download center in our American FactFinder.

Camille Ryan: All right, thank you Moniqua and before I do the demonstration, I would like to tell you a little bit about data.census.gov. This is actually a site that lets you preview the latest developments and the future of data dissemination at the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau is in the process of redesigning census.gov to provide a centralized and standardized platform that's more user-friendly and allows data users to access all data and content from the census.gov search bar.

Since census.gov is a working Web site, we've developed a preview platform at data.census.gov. Keep in mind that data.census.gov is not a new tool or a replacement of American FactFinder. It's a new way of accessing Census

Bureau data that's intended to meet the needs of all data users from the novice to the expert.

The 2013 through 2017 ACS five-year estimates will be available on [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov) on December the 6th. Since this is a preview site, we are encouraging to visit to get a sense of the look and feel of the site and to let us know if you have specific suggestions about the user interface.

This preview site will continue to be updated every few months and within the next year the platform will become the search functionality that underlies all [census.gov](http://census.gov) data and (comments) so please take time to visit our new platform. Our success depends on data users like you. Visit [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov) and tell us how we can make Census Bureau data easier to access for your news story by e-mailing your comments to [\(FI\).feedback@census.gov](mailto:(FI).feedback@census.gov).

You could also learn more about the new platform during the Webinar on [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov) that will be held in early 2019. Check back with us on [census.gov](http://census.gov)'s training page for schedule dates and now we will do a quick demonstration on accessing the block group data using the download center and advance search in American FactFinder.

But before I do the demo, I do just want to take a quick minute and talk a little bit about what a block group is and I'll note users should note that block group data were added to the American FactFinder beginning with the 2009 through '13 five-year data.

Block groups are statistical divisions of Census tracts that are defined to contain a minimum of 600 persons or 240 housing units and a maximum of 3000 people or 1200 housing units. In the American Community Survey, block groups are the lowest level of geography published.

In this slide we're looking at block groups in Prince Georges County, Maryland for 2016 five-year estimate. Tract 8001.02 splits into three block groups, Block Groups 1, 2 and 3. Because the block groups nest within this tract, they're combined population equals that of the tract as shown on the slide.

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent of the permanent parts of the county or county equivalent. Census tracts generally have a minimum population of 1200 as mentioned before or 480 housing units and a maximum population of 8000 people or 3200 housing units. Tracts have an optimum size of 2000 people or 1600 housing units.

And now that we know a little bit about block groups, we're going to go to [americanfactfinder@factfinder.census.gov](mailto:americanfactfinder@factfinder.census.gov) and we will walk through a couple of quick examples of how to balance the block group data.

So there are two ways that you can access this data. One is through the advanced search button here and the other is through the download center so the first one we will check-out is the advanced search here and then from there you want to click-on the light blue box where it says geographies here.

And from here you can click-on the tab that says address and this has (unintelligible) from our location part of and for this example we're going to use the address for the Census Bureau which is 4600 Silver Hill Road.

((Crosstalk))

Camille Ryan: In Suitland, Maryland and then we're going to click the go button and then from there this will actually allow us to determine what block grant this

address is part of so here we can see that this address is part of Block Group 2, Census Tract 8020.01 in Prince Georges County, Maryland.

Now sometimes you may be interested in downloading for multiple block groups all at one time and if that is what you're interested in, then you want to go to the download center. From there you have the radio button selected that you know the dataset or table that you want to download. Click next and we're going to select the American Community Survey.

And for this example, we will select the 2016 ACS five-year. Of course once we have the refresh on December the 6th, you'll be able to do that 2017, click add to your selection, and then click next.

And then from here where it says select a geographic type, you will be able to use the dropdown menu and you can select block group here and we'll just stick with our example. We'll select Maryland. Sometimes you might want it just for one county but let's say again you want (unintelligible) you can bypass that one dropdown and that selects all blocks within Maryland.

And we'll click-on ask for your selection and I'll also take a minute to note that the download center is the only place in American FactFinder that will allow you to select all block groups for your state. If you were to use the advanced search tab, that will only allow you to select all block groups for your county.

So download gives us a little bit more flexibility and then you'd want to click next (unintelligible) there we go, and then from there you can see the variety of detail tables that you can select. For the purposes of this example, we're going to choose Table B01001 which is sex by age. Let me select that and then click next.

And it will give you a box that pops-up that will just ask you to confirm what your choice was, click okay, and then it'll take it a second to download and then after it downloads, you will have the opportunity to just click-on download and it will lead you to the ZIP file. For the purposes of the demonstration, we actually have already unzipped the file.

Our unzipping actually varies from computer to computer so keep that in mind but you can see the results. It will produce a CFP file and in that file you can see that you have all of the different block groups listed here in Column C and then you have the characteristics of the table as well as the margins of error listed here.

So you've got your (unintelligible) and your total (unintelligible) margin of error for that, the estimate for males, the estimate for females, so on and so forth along with the county counts for each of those particular block group (methods) so that actually concludes our demonstration of accessing the block group data and now I will turn it back over to Moniqua.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: Thanks Camille. We have a few more minutes and can take some additional questions. When you do ask a question, we ask that you state your name and your affiliation and because we want to give everyone an ample opportunity to raise their questions, we'll allow just one question and one additional follow-up.

While we wait for questions I'd like to remind media members interested in speaking with the subject matter experts, please contact the public information office at 301-763-3030 or feel free to send an e-mail at [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov) and we will connect you with a subject matter expert for next week. Operator, any other callers?

Coordinator: And our next question is from (Noble Moscerro) with the University of Pittsburgh. Your line is open.

(Noble Moscerro): Hi, I realize that there isn't an exact fit but do any of you recommend any tools that convert Census tracts data to ZIP Code or vice versa?

Camille Ryan: There's a school from Missouri made what's called Mable (GeoCore) I think, you know, Missouri State Data Center, it's not a Census Bureau tool but I think people here do use it to try to convert the geographies.

(Noble Moscerro): Okay, repeat that again, please, Missouri what?

Camille Ryan: I think it's from the Missouri State Data Center and it's called Mable M-A-B-L-E. I think if you Google it, it should come-up.

(Noble Moscerro): Okay, terrific, thanks much.

Coordinator: Your next question is from (Robby Rowell) with the U.S. EPA. Your line is open.

(Robby Rowell): Thank you. My question is when I want to download the data, the columns with the margin of error, is there any way to delete all of the things I might have that those columns downloaded other than just deleting the hardware column by column?

Camille Ryan: Are you talking about a download from American FactFinder?

(Robby Rowell): Yes, or there also and also the two different ways you mentioned?

Camille Ryan: Probably the easiest thing is once you download it into Excel, it's bleeding those columns. You can do it in FactFinder but I think you have to like uncheck the box for each column of the margin of error.

(Robby Rowell): Right, now do I uncheck but kind of hassle, but not but then also like when you download, there's no way you cannot say don't want the margins of error (unintelligible)?

Camille Ryan: We love the margin of error at Census so we do like to include it so that's why it's there.

(Robby Rowell): Okay, I guess also the statistical - well, I'm sorry for another question - but statistical test that you guys have tool, if you ever had it, that's supposed to help, right?

Camille Ryan: That what?

(Robby Rowell): The statistical tool test against?

Camille Ryan: Yes are you referring to the slide we mentioned that statistical testing tool where you can enter-in the estimates and it will tell you whether or not two estimates are statistically different from each other?

(Robby Rowell): Right, right.

Camille Ryan: Yes, that does help so you're right. You could take something from American FactFinder, you could take an estimate along with the margin of error, enter it in that tool and determine whether or not those two estimates are statistically different from each other.

(Robby Rowell): Okay, thank you.

Camille Ryan: You're welcome.

Coordinator: Your next question is from David Epstein with the University of Baltimore.  
Your line is open.

David Epstein: Hello, I've been trying to check if I understood correctly that the information on computer use wouldn't be available immediately at the block group level?

Mike Martin: Hi, this is Mike Martin again from the education and social stratification branch. The information on computer and Internet will not be available at the block group level for the 2013 to 2017 data at all. We hope it will be available in the future but not for this data year.

David Epstein: Okay, great, thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question is from Eric Devereux with Devereux Consulting. You may ask your question.

Eric Devereux: Hi, thank you so much. I just wanted to make sure I understood something clearly. I'm a relatively new user of Census five-year data and I've been doing a digitalization for a client, Community Foundation of Frederick County and we've been looking at six comparison counties and some of the data I wanted to visualize to them was really only available across the comparison counties to the ACS five-year data.

And what you said, you'd be most comfortable comparing for example the 2008 to 2012 in a trendline to 2013-2017. Some of the visualizations I

already prepared, had the values for all of the available ACS five-year estimates going back and released on an annual basis.

I'm wondering if there are any semantics to those trendlines that have numbers for each one of the ACS five-year estimates had been released since 2009, or there's a way to explain it so that it's clear what those numbers actually mean?

Camille Ryan: Can you repeat, I'm sorry, there was a little bit of feedback. Can you just raise your question, just your main point that you need our subject matter experts to answer?

Eric Devereux: Sure, I just I prepared visualizations that have in them the ACS five-year estimate values for different variables across six counties that have the numbers for the 2009 five-year, 2010 five-year, 2011 five-year, etcetera. I understand that there's overlapping and non-overlapping years in each one of those estimates.

I'm just wondering whether there's any real semantics to producing those trendlines or whether I would be better-suited for example just have two data points, the 2008 to 2012 five-year and the 2013 to 2017 five-year?

Mike Martin: Hi, this is Mike so (unintelligible) estimation statistical support branch. You are better off using two separate, the '08-'12 and '13-'17 when you're doing your comparisons, the non-overlapping years. As you said with the overlapping sets, you have between one and four years that are overlapping. It's difficult to interpret comparisons like that. We recommend you use the non-overlapping.

Eric Devereux: Thank you.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: Thank you and while we wait to queue-up questions, we want to let you know about the ACS data user group. The ACS data user group is a great way to learn from your peers about how to use ACS data for all kinds of applications.

Membership is free and open to all interested data users. There are currently more than 2000 group members. The next ACS data user conference is planned for May 14th through the 15th, 2019 at the American University Washington College of Law here in Washington, D.C. You can also learn more about the conference and this group at [acsdatacommunity.prb.org](http://acsdatacommunity.prb.org).

In addition, while we're waiting, we wanted to make sure that you know about our information resources that are around the country. We have a network of data specialists who can arrange free training or provide data assistance. Feel free to contact our public information office at [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov) for more information.

We also have a network of state data centers in every state who can help you understand local Census data and Census information centers which are a network of nonprofit national and community groups that help populations access the data. You can also find these on our Web site at [census.gov/fbc](http://census.gov/fbc). Operator, do we have any additional questions?

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Simone Alexander) with (Enlassay) Chicago. Your line is open.

(Simone Alexander): Yes, so I am pulling I have to pull data for Census tracts for a community area within a city so I'm assuming that the answer to my question is no but it's kind of to ask just in case but some of the cool new graphing tools that are

available and that have been available for a few years, is it possible to use that with a grouping of Census tracts or is that only for the areas that are actually tabulated, you know, that are analyzed within by ACS itself?

Camille Ryan: Were there specific tools that you were looking at?

(Simone Alexander): Yes, I'm forgetting the name of it because it was in a few slides back but some of the tools (unintelligible) that allow you to you know, make cool-looking graphs, etcetera?

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: We're trying to be able to find which one that you were referencing but as always our office is open at any time if you want to highlight that question and send it to [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov), I can get with Camille and her team and then we can direct you to the right location for that tool.

Woman: Wasn't it ATI, something like that?

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: API, application program interface?

(Simone Alexander): Right, that one, yes.

((Crosstalk))

Woman: ... all kinds of geographies but also tracts and also Census Business Builder, I believe you can create your own areas by putting tracts together. I think that's one of the options.

(Simone Alexander): Census Business Builder?

Camille Ryan: CBB.

(Simone Alexander): Got it. Great. Thank you.

Coordinator: And our next question is from (Brian Carrister) with (Woodworn). Your line is open.

(Brian Carrister): Thank you. In the example where you were showing us the block group data from the State of Maryland, is there a place to find the codes to those column headings or did I just not see that during your example?

Camille Ryan: Yes. We have somebody coming from that region of (Acacia Branch) who's going to answer that question.

Woman: So when you so Camille was talking about downloading that ZIP file. In that ZIP file there are four individual files, two of them are Excel workbooks. One of them is the data file. It's like it would say like one-year 2017 and the table name and then it says with (unintelligible) stands for with annotation.

The other Excel workbook is going to be a metadata file that has the variables with the column headings so that will give you all the column headings so it's a separate Excel file on the data ZIP file.

(Brian Carrister): Right, so those column headings are in English, they're not codes, correct?

Woman: Correct, correct. The codes at the top of the column correspond to column headings that are included in the attached Excel file.

(Brian Carrister): Thank you.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: And finally we'll like to ask you to help us make these Webinars more useful by filling-out an online application, excuse me, evaluation form after our questions. Operator, how are we doing on our questions?

Coordinator: And we have no additional questions.

Moniqua Roberts-Gray: Thank you. If you do have questions following today's Webinar, please contact us at the information (unintelligible). Media, please check to make sure your embargo password has not expired. The embargoed data will be posted next Tuesday, December the 4th.

Additional information about the American Community Survey (unintelligible) can be found in our press kit so please take a chance, an opportunity to visit [census.gov](http://census.gov) and click Slider 1.

I also encourage you to continue the conversation and connect with us. You can sign-up for and manage alerts on the American Community Survey via gov delivery. You can visit our Web site or connect or on various social media platforms using the hashtag #ACSdata.

Thank you again for your participation and if you have any additional questions, again feel free to reach-out to the public information office at [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov) or give us a ring at 301-763-3030. This will conclude our ACS pre-release Webinar. Thank you for your time.

Man: Thank you.

Coordinator: And this concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may disconnect at this time.

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