

2019 ACS 1-Year Pre-Release Webinar September 10, 2020

Operator: Welcome, and thank you for standing by. All lines are in a listen-only mode until the question-and-answer session. At that time, please press star 1 and record your name as prompted.

Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn today's meeting over to Leslie Malone. Thank you, you may begin.

Leslie Malone: Good afternoon, and welcome to the American Community Survey 2019 Technical Webinar.

Today's webinar is focused on helping you prepare for the release of the 2019 ACS 1-year data products. Before I proceed, I'd like to say a special thank you to our American Community Survey respondents for their participation in the survey. Without them, we would not have these data, which is so important for America's communities.

Today's webinar is being recorded, and materials, including the recording and slides, will be available through Census Academy in the recorded webinars section. Also, the slides and transcript from today's presentation will be made available in the press kit. The URL is on the slide.

I'm Leslie Malone, a Public Affairs Specialist with the Census Bureau's Public Information Office. Our presenters today are Charles Gamble, Supervisory Survey Statistician with the American Community Survey Office; and Tyson Weister, a Survey Statistician with the Center for Enterprise Dissemination. At the end of this presentation, we'll open up the lines for media questions.

Before we get started, I want to quickly outline what will be covered today. First, next week we'll be releasing the 2019 ACS 1-year estimates on September the 17th. And Embargo users will have access on September the 15th.

Then, we'll cover ACS basics for those of you who may be new to the survey. That will be followed by updates for the 2019 1-year release, including collection and content.

Throughout the webinar, we'll point to noteworthy pages related to the release. After that, we'll have our first Q&A. Following the Q&A, Tyson Weister will demonstrate how to navigate to the new estimates in data.census.gov, the Census Bureau's primary data dissemination platform.

This is your contact information. And then we'll open the lines up for a few more questions. Following that, I'll share the evaluation link for you to provide us with feedback regarding today's webinar. Let's start with our upcoming releases in reference to our ACS 1-year estimates

On September the 15th, we will begin our data release season with the public release of the 2019 ACS 1-year estimates. We will release numerous statistics about social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September the 15th for Embargo users. The public release begins at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, September the 17th. Products that will be released include, data profile, detailed tables and summary files, Comparison Profiles, Selected Population Profiles and Subject Table, additional data tools and visualizations will also be available.

Like last year and moving forward, the most notable tool to retrieve ACS data is data.census.gov. Other data tools include My Congressional District, QuickFacts, and the Application Programming Interface, or API. And on this slide is the link to our visualization library, where you'll be able to find our new interactive data visuals, set for release on September the 17th. A press kit will also be available that includes links and tips to access these data and tools.

In addition to the 1-year estimates released on October 15th, the Census Bureau will also release the 2019 ACS 1-year Public Use Microdata Sample or PUMS file. The PUMS file can be used by data users to create custom tables not already available through pre-tabulated ACS data products. PUMS data are available at the nation, the region, state and Public Use Microdata Area, also known as PUMAs, geographic level.

PUMAs are non-overlapping geographies that partition each state into areas containing roughly 100,000 residents. PUMS data can be found on the Census Bureau File Transfer Protocol, or FTP server or through the microdata tool available on data.census.gov.

Also on October 15, the 2019 ACS 1-year supplemental estimates will be released. Supplemental tables are simplified tables providing ACS statistics at a lower population threshold than the standard 1-year detailed table. In fact, they are the only source of 1-year data for geographies of populations of 20,000 to 65,000.

I will now turn it over to Charles Gamble, who will provide you with information about the American Community Survey. Over to you, Charles.

Charles Gamble: Good afternoon everyone. As stated, my name is Charles Gamble and I work in the American Community Survey Office. So first let me thank Leslie for the introductions, as well as the updates for the upcoming releases.

But I want to switch gears and dive into the basics of the ACS or rather the American Community Survey, ACS for short. This basic information will be a great overview/refresher course, to the foundation of the American Community Survey.

The ACS takes great pride in being on the leading-edge of survey design, continuous improvement and data quality. We're the nation's most current, reliable and accessible data source for local statistics on numerous topics. To name a few these topics include, children, veterans, commuting, education, income and much more. The survey itself covers over 40 topics.

ACS collects data by serving 3.5 million addresses each year. And this data helps to inform over \$675 billion of federal spending each year, as well as countless nonfederal uses. Now, the ACS provides period estimates which cover a duration of time such as our 1-year and 5-year estimates.

Our 1-year estimates are for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more. Our 1-year supplemental estimates are for geographic areas with populations of 20,000 or more. And our 5-year estimates are for geographic areas of all sizes.

Now, the content collected by the American Community Survey can be grouped into four main types. So we have social, economic, housing and demographic. Under social characteristics you'll find topics such as education, marital status, fertility, veterans and others. The ACS does collect basic demographic characteristics such as sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin.

Economic characteristics, which includes such topics as employment status, income, commuting to work, industry and occupation as well as others. And housing characteristics, which include topics such as tenure, information about occupancy, and the structure itself, home value, housing costs - which includes mortgage taxes, insurance, and many other topics as you can see here on this table. Now, it's important to note that each question on the ACS is vital as they're required by federal and state government programs.

So with that said, regarding the content of ACS, you're curious as to why we ask a question. We have developed webpages to explain the purpose of these questions, and the many uses they provide to help communities. The why we ask webpages allow you to select a specific topic and provides an origin of the question, a view of the question as an extra appears on the survey, popular results from the question, and much more.

So given the many topics encompassed by the ACS, let's talk a little about the geography covered by the survey as well. So major strength of the American Community Survey is not only the various topics covered, but the vast number of geographic areas for which the survey generates comparable estimates for.

So I do want to say there are more than 7,200 geographic areas included in the 2019 1-year release. Now, these geographies for the 1-year release consist of areas with a population of 65,000 or more, and include estimates at the national level, all states including DC and Puerto Rico, all metropolitan areas, all congressional districts of 116th Congress and all counties in place with a population of at least 65,000.

So you can follow the URL at the bottom of the slide, where you can learn more about the available geographies through a website. So these geographies areas covered on the side receive most, if not all the data products that I'll be describing on the coming slides.

Let's take a moment to learn about the types of data products available in the ACS. Generally, these products are either profiles or tables. So profiles offer a broad look at a community's social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics. They generally include many different variables. Any geography or population group is at the center of the profile.

The types of profiles included in the ACS are the data profiles, which consists of broad social, economic, housing and demographic profiles. Our comparison profiles, which offer comparisons of data profile estimates across different ACS years, so you're actually able to compare estimates over time, and our selected population profiles, which provide broad social, economic and housing profiles for a large number of race, ethnic, ancestry, and country/ region of birth groups.

Now, for your reference, please notice the letters and parentheses next to the profile or table names actually correspond to the beginning of the table ID. For example, Data Profiles have a table ID that begins with the letters DP. Whereas, Comparison Profile table ID would begin with CP. Now, next week on September 17th, our 1-year data release will contain data profiles, comparison profiles, and Selected Population Profiles for geographies of 65,000 or more.

So as you may have heard me mention in the previous slide, tables are the other type of data product available in the ACS. Now, tables provide a precise or detailed view of the subject, and the subject matter is at the center of a table.

The ACS includes the following tables, our Detailed Tables, which provide access to the most detailed ACS data and cross tabulations of ACS variables. Our Subject Tables, which are very similar to that of Data Profiles, but include more detailed ACS data classified by subject. We have our Ranking Tables, which provide state rankings of estimates over 80 key variables, and Geographic Comparison Tables, which compare geographic areas other than states. So we also compare cities and counties for key variables.

Now, Detailed Tables and Subject Tables will both be released next week during the 1-year release through data.census.gov. While the Ranking Tables and Geographic Comparison Tables will be made available through the Census Bureau's File Transfer site or the FTP site, but also the Ranking Tables and Geographic Comparison Tables will be made available through our ACS web page, which I'll discuss a bit later. So for more resources on understanding table IDs, visit our ACS webpage at the web link provided on this slide.

Wrapping up on the ACS basics, I'm going to point you to our training presentation's webpage. This page is a great resource when looking for training on various subjects. And all these trainings are basic entry level to help you get a good understanding of the content.

For example, a topic level training available on this page is the new businesses statistics, which included a collaboration between ACS staff, and our ECON directorate. But listening to this to this webinar, you can learn how to find ACS statistics as it pertains to the topic of business, which will lead you to find demographic statistics, statistics on income, educational statistics and more, as variables may relate to business needs.

We also offer general training such as the introduction to the ACS, which provides data users with an overview of the ACS as a whole. So in this webinar, we provide some background information on the ACS, the evolution of the survey, how the ACS is used, and some of the ACS products I've just discussed in the previous slides, and much more.

You also find overviews of more advanced tools like the Application Programming Interface, known as the API, and the public use micro sample or PUMS files. So please feel free to visit our training

presentations page at the link provided to expand your knowledge. And I also want to point out that today's webinar will also be added to this page as well.

All right, so I will switch gears, move away from the basics and let's talk a little bit about the updates for 2019 ACS 1-year release regarding collection and content. So before discuss updates to specific tables data user should note that there were two major changes to content that impacted data products.

First, the question for relationship to householder that was updated based on the results of the 2016 American Community Survey Content Test. Now, the content test periodically reviews the content of the ACS to ensure the survey stays relevant as society changes, and also federal agency data needs evolve.

The ACS now collects specific information about whether a household member is the opposite-sex spouse, opposite-sex unmarried partner, same-sex spouse, or same-sex unmarried partner of the householder. Collection of this detailed information addresses known data quality issues and approves the measurement of same sex couple households.

In addition to the new detailed information regarding spouse and unmarried partner households, the ACS no longer includes the rumor/border category. As a result, tables for this topic have been updated to reflect this change. All tables that include relationship to householder have been similarly updated.

Data users may refer to the link at the bottom of the slide for the full list of modified tables. And data users should refer to the user note titled "Revisions to the relationship to householder item" for more details.

The second major change was that multiple categories for means of transportation were updated in 2019 as shown on this slide. Consequently, the vast majority of tables that were under topic 08 were modified that row labels now use the updated categories.

To learn more about the changes for this topic, please refer to the user note titled "Means of Transportation Category Changes." Subsequent slides about specific new, modified and deleted tables will cover greater details about products impacted by the means of transportation and relationships to householder updates.

Now that we've covered the content changes, let's discuss changes to specific data products. So this year we have four new Detailed Tables, covering household and families, the foreign born population and quality measures. We also have one new Subject Table for health insurance.

So for householder surveys, Table B11008 provides information about cohabiting couples that reside with children under 18 who have been never – who are never married with biological children, stepchildren or adopted children of the householder.

B11012 shows the presence of relatives and own children under 18 years by the following types of households; married couple, cohabiting couple, female householder or no spouse or partner present, and male householder with no spouse or partner present.

For the foreign born population, table B05015 provides a data for year of entry among the foreign born population for the nine largest country of birth groups. Now this table shows the data for a year of entering 2010 or more recent, and for a year of entry before 2010.

For quality measures, we've also added a new quality measures table, which is B98003, unweighted total population sample, is a new table available for nation, states, counties and places. And health insurance subject table S2713 provides subsidized marketplace coverage estimates for the civilian non institutionalized by three age categories, so under 19, 19 to 64, and 65 and older.

Estimates are available for nation, states and combined statistical areas and this table is similar in structure and format as Subject Table S2703. Now, if you're interested in the information provided on each of these tables, please use the web address below to access these tables.

In addition to the new tables for this year's release, we also have modifications that cover a wide variety of topics. First, quality measure tables have been improved. In addition to nation, states and counties, table B98001 is now also published for places consistent with the 5-year version. In prior years the 1-year version was only available for nation, states and counties.

Improved disclosure when it has also been applied to B98001 and B98002. For the foreign born population, five additional county of birth groups were added to table B05006. And the row label is updated from Macedonia to North Macedonia.

Regarding Educational Attainment, Subject Table S1501 now includes the estimate for high school graduate or higher and bachelor's degree or higher for the total male and female population, 25 years and older.

So, earlier we noted that multiple categories for means of transportation were updated in 2019. As a result, most of tables beginning with IDs listed here, or had rows modified reflect the new categories. For example, Detailed Table B08006 now shows updated category such as long-distance train or commuter rail, and work from home. The full list of modified tables is too numerous to show on a slide, but data users can refer to the table and geography changes page shown at the bottom of slide for the full list of affected tables.

There were a number of tables that were also modified to incorporate the new data collected from the updated relationship to householder question. Some tables had changes to family and non-family lines, rows in detailed table B09005 for family and non-family households were eliminated, and a row for cohabiting couple households was added. Detailed Tables of B09019, C09019, and B09020 were modified to no longer differentiate between people living in a family and non-family households.

Other tables had changes to spouse and partner lines. Rows were added to B09019, B11009 and B12504 to provide more detailed data for spouse and partner estimates. Table B13004 was modified to focus on the presence of a spouse or partner and the household rather than marital status.

From the previous slide, we know that the title for B11009 has been updated. This slide and the next slide shows a full list of tables that had changes to titles in 2019 by topic and table ID for households and families, fertility and journey to work. Journey to work titles were modified to remove, leaving from home – or excuse me, leaving home and from home, as can be seen on slide, which shows the changes in title for 2019.

And for our last update on content, we have four tables that will no longer be available starting this year, B00001, and B00002 have been deleted for this year. Data users can use B98003, and B98001 as alternatives. For more information about those changes refer to the user note titled Documentation of Tables B00001, B00002 and so forth. Detailed tables B09008, and C09008 have also been deleted. B09021 is available as an alternative for those two deleted tables.

So now moving away from data product changes, another update that we do yearly is to update the various geographic areas across the country. So these changes occur for a number of reasons such as annexation, disincorporation and geocoding updates. This can reduce the number of – or this can reduce the comparability of some geographic areas, but ensures that the most recent versions of geographic areas are used on our tabulations process.

Some examples of a few boundary changes for the upcoming release consist of three new American Indian off-reservation trust lands located in Arizona, California and Washington. One new kind of subdivision in Illinois, and two new census designate places in Florida and Missouri. To find more information about these changes, please visit our webpage listed on the bottom of this slide.

So, as we finish up the update section, I want to provide guidance on the correct way to actually compare ACS data. So feel free to compare across geographies and population subgroups using 2019 ACS data. But be sure to compare similar period lengths. So, for example, only compare 1-year ACS data to 1-year ACS data and 5-year to 5-year. Be sure to not compare 1-year estimates to 5-year estimates. Also, percent estimates are often more reliable than account estimates they are based on.

Now, when a population estimates program estimate exists, such as the total population, or, for example, the number of females in a county. The population estimates program estimate is the official value and is preferred. However in the situation, ACS count estimates may always be compared at the needs of the data user requires it.

So don't expect ACS estimates to match decennial census counts or estimates from other surveys. For example, don't expect ACS estimates to match current population or CPS income, poverty and health insurance estimates, which leads us to our next slide regarding CPS.

So I just want to point out, the next week on Tuesday, September 15th, the Current Population Survey or CPS for short, will release its 2019 income, poverty and health insurance estimates. Please recognize that the ACS and CPS are different surveys, and the methods in how they are conducted do differ.

But sometimes their overlapping data topics do tend to have similar trends over time. So we recommend using CPS estimates when using data at the national level. For subnational estimates, or when comparing the nation to other geographies, we recommend using the ACS estimates.

If you have any further interest about comparing ACS data with previous years of ACS data, or with comparing ACS data to decennial census data, please visit our comparing ACS data webpage for guidance. This page also provides topic specific guidance to alert you to any cautions you should be aware of when comparing ACS data.

All right. So before we move into our Q&A session, and as well as our live demonstration on how to use data.census.gov, I want to take a moment to offer some helpful information available on our ACS website, which contains noteworthy pages related to the upcoming release next week.

First and foremost, the Census ACS homepage can be found at census.gov/ACS, as you can see at the bottom of the slide. On the homepage you can see images with links to “How to respond to ACS” - This can be helpful for respondents to find information on how to actually provide the data. Also, you will find “ACS data help with COVID-19 response efforts”, which provides information on how ACS data is trying to help in the fight against the pandemic, as well as a link to the COVID-19 data hub.

And given that 2020 is a decennial census year, we have a link for “Should I respond to both the ACS and the 2020 census”, along with a video detailing the importance of both the ACS and 2020 census. So this resource helps responder to understand the difference between both programs, as well as the importance of providing information to both as well.

On the left hand side of the homepage, you will notice several different tabs, so the tabs help break out into further detail on specific topics regarding the ACS. The tabs help you navigate through the many resources available on the ACS website. So please take some time to explore the ACS web page to get yourself familiar with the layout and enhance your knowledge of the survey.

For example, the News & Updates tab, which actually leads us into our next slide. So the News & Updates tab will lead you to our data release schedules by year, as well as a new and notable documentation about what is to come in each release. This page is updated throughout the fall as new data products are released for the 1-year estimates, and is also updated for the release of 5-year products, which will be released in December, and at the top of the New Year in January.

Some of the great information available on these pages is that it, obviously, provides the release dates, but also provides table and geography changes as well as geography highlights for the releases.

Now, another ACS webpage that data users may find very helpful is our data page, which provides access to specific tables that a data user may be seeking. So this page also provides a list of tools that can be used to retrieve ACS data.

For example, looking at the image on the slide, the tabs on the left, you will find our main dissemination platform data.census.gov located under the Data Table & Tools tab, along with the specific tables and profiles, which have direct links navigating you to choose tables and data.census.gov.

Also on the tab on the left-hand side, you can find how to pull data from the File Transfer Protocol or FTP, the summary file, as well as other locations to locate Public Use Microdata Sample also known as PUMS data. There are other tabs like Variance Replica Tables, Selected Population Tables, American Indian & Alaskan Native data, and custom tables. So in all, if you're looking on how to find ACS data, if you select the Data tab on the home screen, you will be lead to this page which provides many different options on how to find the data you are looking for.

On the ACS website, you can also find Data User Resources by selecting the Guidance for Data Users tab on the left side of the ACS homepage. A couple examples of resources available on the guidance for data users page are the data user handbooks. So now these handbooks are provided in PDF format and are downloadable.

Each handbook is directed towards a specific audience and contains how-to instructions on using data in different ways, or for different reasons. Each handbook also contains case studies showing actual instances of how the American Community Survey data was used by the specified audience of the handbook.

I'd also like to point out that ACSO staff have worked diligently over the past year to update many of these handbooks to their present state, especially given the change to data.census.gov just last year.

Another resource is our training presentations page, which I mentioned earlier, but as a quick recap, presentations – these presentations are recordings of live webinars performed by ACSO staff. Each presentation contains a video of the training along with a copy of the PowerPoint slides and a transcript of the presentation.

The training presentations are a great way to train yourself or others on specific topics as they relate to the American Community Survey. So if you ever missed one of our live training webinars or simply want to revisit one, feel free to visit the training presentations page with the materials of a particular webinar.

Also to point out our technical documentation page, which can be found by simply selecting the technical documentation tab on the left-hand side of the ACS homepage. The technical documentation page provides documentation to assist users with our data releases.

So for example, as shown on this slide, the Code Lists, Definitions and Accuracy section contains a link to code list, which provides detailed codes for variables that contain a large number of coded responses such as ancestry, occupation, field of degree and more. Subject Definitions, which contains definitions of all variables within the ACS. Group Quarters Definitions, defining for – definition for classifying group of living situations.

Instructions for Applying Statistical Testing and Statistical Testing Tool, so basic instructions for obtaining the ACS standard errors needed to do statistical testing. Links to the Comparison Guidance, to learn more about comparing ACS data to other programs like the decennial census, which I spoke about earlier. Accuracy of Data, a basic explanation of the sample design, estimation methodology and accuracy of the data.

So, these are all items within the Code, List Definitions and Accuracy section. But as you can see, there are sections on the left navigation for user notes, errata notes, geography changes and others.

And now I want to go over some of the different tools available to access ACS data. Outside of the traditional dissemination platform at data.census.gov, which we will be performing a live demonstration of shortly, but first, the census data Application Programming Interface or API is a data service that enables researchers and software developers to access and use Census Bureau data within their programs and applications.

The Census Data API presents data in a standardized way. And by standardizing the API query language across multiple data sets, the learning curve for researchers and developers is reduced. The API includes many Census Bureau dataset, including the 1-year as well as the 5-year datasets, as well as the ACS migration flows and supplemental data.

You can learn more by viewing the webinar titled “Using The Census Application Programming Interface with the American Community Survey”, which was performed on June 26, 2019 on our website, and that link is actually provided here at the bottom of the slide.

Now, you may recall earlier in the presentation I mentioned Ranking Tables, and Geographic Comparison Tables or GCTs for short, as two of the types of tables available. So Ranking Tables provide state rankings for more 80 key variables, whereas geographic comparison tables compared geographic areas other than just states, including counties, cities and more areas sorted alphabetically.

Ranking Tables and GCTs can be found through the Census Bureau's File Transfer Protocol or FTP site. But also on our data page through the ACS website we provide pages for both ranking and geographic comparison tables, which contain links to specified tables with 2019 ACS release. So using the links within these pages, you're able to download the tables of your choice.

So in addition to kick off to our data release season with 1-year released next week on September 17th, we also have future ACS data releases to follow. So sticking with our 1-year, our next release is on October 15th when we publicly release the 2019 ACS 1-year supplemental estimates, which will encompass geographies with populations of 20,000 or more.

For our 5-year release on December 8th, the 5-year estimates will be embargoed to the media with a public release to follow December 10th. These data will cover the time period of 2015 to 2019 making up the 5-year estimates. And these estimates will cover all geographic areas regardless of population size, down to the block group level. Also be aware, that we will be conducting a 5-year prerelease webinar similar to the one today before those data are released for the 5-year estimates.

For our Public Use Microdata Sample files or PUMS, this will first be released on October 15th, containing the 2019 1-year PUMS file and then again on January 14, 2021, for the 2019 5-year PUMS. And 2015 through 2019 Variance Replicate Estimates, these are set for release on January 14, 2021.

In closing the ACS portion of today's webinar, I encourage you to connect with us. You can sign up for and manage alerts on the ACS via govdelivery. Please, obviously, visit our website or connect on various social media platforms using hashtag #ACSdata.

Now, if you're using ACS estimates, please make sure to source us. It helps people know that the information they're using is powered by the American Community Survey. We also do provide a customer support, a user support through email and phone and that information is also available here on this slide.

And I'll turn it back over to Leslie so we can begin the question-and-answer session before we do our live demonstration on how to access ACS estimates using data.census.gov. Leslie it's all yours.

Leslie Malone: Thank you, Charles. Now, we'll open up the lines for questions, when you ask your question, we ask that you state your name and your affiliation. And because we want to give everyone an opportunity, we'll allow just one question and one follow up per caller.

Following the question-and-answer session, we will provide a live demonstration of how to access data in data.census.gov. While we wait for calls, I would like to remind you that Embargo subscribers will have access to the 2019 ACS 1-year statistics beginning at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, September the 15th.

The full release is set for 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, September the 17th. To see this data prior to the release date of September 17th, please visit the embargo area, which you'll find on census.gov by clicking on newsrooms, then embargoed releases. After signing in, you'll have access to embargo data in the press kit, including the presentation slides and other products. The embargo area press kit link on this page will also take you there once the embargo period begins.

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 to help your community or to expand the business? Please visit the link at the bottom of the slide to share your story and explore how data enthusiasts across the country are using ACS data in creative ways. Your stories highlights the value of the American Community Survey.

As we begin the question and answer period, please remember to speak clearly. Since we are completely virtual please try your best to limit background noise. Operator, we are now ready for questions.

Operator: Thank you. We will begin the question-and-answer session. If you'd like to ask a question or make a comment from the phones, please press star 1. Make sure your phone is unmuted and record your name and your affiliation to introduce your question or comment.

To withdraw that request, you may press star 2. Once again for questions or comments from the phones at this time please press star 1 and record your information. Standing by for questions or comments. One moment please

Thank you. And, again, as a reminder that's star 1 and record your name. One moment while we wait for our first question. Thank you. Again, it's star 1 to record your name. One moment. And again for questions or comments, that is for media only – media only, please press star 1 and record your name and affiliation. Again, that's star 1 for a question or comment and star 2 to withdraw that request. One moment.

And again, we are taking questions or comments from media only at this time. Again, if you're from the media and you have a question or comment, please press star 1 and record your name. Again

that star 1 and record your name and affiliation and that's star 2 to withdraw that request. We're standing by.

Leslie Malone: Operator, we will have another opportunity for people to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

Operator: Thank you. And we currently have no questions or comments from the media at this time.

Leslie Malone: Thank you operator. Again, we'll have another opportunity for Q&A at the very end of today's webinar. But for now, let's move into our next session, using data.census.gov.

Presenting this section and providing a walkthrough of data.census.gov as well as resources for this tool is Tyson Weister, from the Center for Enterprise Dissemination. Over to you, Tyson.

Tyson Weister: Great, thanks, Leslie. And thank you all so much for sticking around for the demonstration today on how to use data.census.gov, specifically to access data from this release. So what we're going to walk through are five quick searches. And our goal is to just introduce you to some different search strategies and functionality on this site.

And during this process, we also want to make sure that we highlight each of the five types of tables that will be included with the ACS 1-year data release, Subject and Detailed Tables, Data Comparison and Selected Population Profiles.

And in these examples we're going to walk through, they're all going to pull from Educational Attainment, just so that we have a consistent topic and it will help highlight and showcase some of the differences between the level of detail in the data presentation styles in each of these table types.

So with that, we'll go ahead and get started here. I'm going to pull up Google Chrome. It is the recommended browser for using data.census.gov. In just a few notes, before I get started, we do have slides that walk through this process step by step. So if you miss something as we're going along, no worries, you'll have that as well as the whole suite of other educational materials to help you learn more how to use this site. I'm going to be showing data from 2018 and you'll use this same process to access data for 2019 and just substituting the year.

So when you're on the landing page here, what you'll notice are two different options to get started with your search, a single search bar, and an advanced search, we're going to use both. But I'm going to start with a single search. And what you want to type in here are keywords, a topic, geography year, or table ID.

I'm going to type in education, Orange County, California. And I'll go ahead and specify 2018 just to make sure that I'm getting only the most recent data that's available. When you're ready, go ahead and press Enter or click Search. You may see a featured statistic at the top of the all results page, just giving you some information. But what I'd like to do is click tables in the upper left in order to drill into more detail.

The very first table here, Educational Attainment, S1501, I want to take a deeper look at this table and see what data are available. So I'm going to click Customize Table, just so I can see this across my full screen.

These tables that start with S are subject tables from the American Community Survey. They're a great place to get some of the most common information. Here we can see that there is a section on the Educational Attainment of the population 25 years and over.

It gives us an estimate as well as the corresponding percentages. And we can see our geography that we specified is at the top of the table Orange County. The other benefit of the subject tables beyond providing the common statistics that you would expect to get from Educational Attainment data from the Census Bureau. It also provides cross tabulations, which is the benefit of the American Community Survey.

So you can break out Educational Attainment by age, race and Hispanic origin, poverty and median earnings. And as you scroll through the right on this table, you can also see that its broken out by sex; for males, the corresponding percent; as well as females.

So lots of great information as a starting point here. I'm going to click Tables in the upper left to put me one back – a step back in the navigation. Notice there are 91 other tables that we can click on and look between if we want to explore more data that are available.

We also have access to this filter button, and the single search bar if we'd like to refine our search more. I'm going to do that now and move to our second example. You can also type in a table ID, once you've gone through the steps to find a table that has data that you're interested in. Searching by table ID in the future is the most direct and easiest way to get there again.

So I'm going to type in B15003 and press Enter, and just keep my year and geography. These tables that start with B and C are Detailed Tables from the American Community Survey. This particular table shows the highest level of Educational Attainment broken out by detailed level of schooling. So, as the name suggests, if you're looking for the most detailed information, you'll find it through this set of tables. We can see in this particular table, it provides a separate breakout for master's degree, professional school degree, and doctorate degree for our geography.

If you're not finding a quick answer to your question through the single search bar, there is another navigation pathway you can use and that's the Advanced Search. When you want to try that you'll click the U.S. Census logo in the upper left. That's going to clean everything out and take you back to the landing page. And then you'll click on the Advanced Search link.

So when you're here, the advanced search filter experience is where you browse a set of options that are available and you're able to precisely select them. You're always looking for a checkbox as a final selection, words and phrases without checkboxes give you more detailed options to the right to choose from.

So for this example, I'm going to show you how you can specify multiple types, or multiple geographies, in the same search and how you can specify your type of table. In the filter, you want to start out with whatever is most important. Here, I'll click on years and choose 2018 to make sure we're getting the refund data, then I'll click on survey. And here you can choose your particular type of table.

If you're feeling overwhelmed with all of the ACS data that's being released, I recommend checking out the data profiles as a starting point. So I check the box for ACS 1-year data profile. And the last thing we'll do is specify our geography.

I want data for all states, and we'll look at the Educational Attainment data. We'll click geography, state, and all states in the United States. We check the box and see it's been added to the bottom as a selected filter. Once you're happy with your search criteria, at the lower right, you'll see search click that. And once again, we'll click on tables in the upper left.

The data profiles are great. They cover all topics of the American Community Survey and you only have a few tables to look through. When you see something of interest, like selected social characteristics, you can click on the table title, and I'm going to customize it just to see it across our full screen again.

You can see at the top we get data for all the different states that we specified. And as we scroll through the table, different topics of American Community Survey data, marital status, fertility, grandparents, school enrollment, and then we see that Educational Attainment section for the population 25 years and over.

We can hover over a particular line item that we're interested in, for example, high school graduate or higher. You can see in Illinois, it was 89.5% and we can follow that line across the compare throughout our geographies.

Once you've got to this step, one thing that you may be interested in is saving your table results for later. We make it very easy to do that. You just click into the address bar, and then you'll copy the URL. You'll use the full URL to the table or map, save it in a Word document or some other email.

And once you're ready to access that again, I'm going to paste it in a new browser and press Enter just so you can see that it takes us directly to the table view we were at earlier with our Table ID that we were clicked into, DP02 and our geographies that we specified.

Moving on to our next search, there may be times when you want to edit your search, instead of starting fresh, and you can do that by clicking into the single search bar at the top of your screen, and then select Advanced Search.

Notice at the bottom, we have all of our selected filters that are still shown on our screen here. And there are little Xs next to them. So all you have to do is click the X next to filters that you want to remove. Here, I'm going to specify a new geography and a new type of American Community Survey table. So I'll leave the year and then make my new selection.

What I want to showcase now is how you can compare a single geography over time with the ACS comparison profile. You can access the profiles by selecting Survey, choose the first option, ACS 1-year estimates, comparison profiles. And then click Geography, just like before.

If you're not sure which geographic areas are available for the criteria you've already specified, what you can do is click on the show summary level toggle. And that's going to give you the full set of options listed out individually. Areas that are compatible with the comparison profiles are clickable, and ones that are not compatible are grayed out.

I'm going to pull up this data for the Los Angeles metro area. So when you scroll through the list, you'll see where it says Metropolitan Statistical Area. Metropolitan Statistical Area, summary level 310. So we click that geography. It gives us a list of the first 100 metro areas.

My favorite trick is to click the Spyglass in the upper right and start typing in the geography name that I'm looking for. I do need a correct spelling as you're working through this particular list. So I click the first option here for Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Metro Area. When we're happy with our search criteria at the bottom, just like before, we'll click Search in the lower right in table in the upper left.

Now, these comparison profiles will mirror the content in the data profiles, and you'll see those comparative social characteristics in the United States. We'll click Customize Table to see that across the full screen and you'll see similar types of data. So I'll scroll down to the educational attainment section.

What's unique about this particular table is it's one of the few tables that provide data over time in a single table view. You can see data for our geography, the Los Angeles Metro areas for 2018, 2017 all the way back to 2014. There are statistical significance indicated for you at the 90% confidence level to make it easy for you to compare.

And any dollar value you may see in these set of tables are inflation adjusted to a consistent value. So what we can get from this table is by looking at the estimate for 2017, 80.7% of the population over 25 had a high school graduate or higher. That is on the rise in 2018 compared to 81%. And we see that difference is statistically significant because of the asterisk that's indicated in the column.

In comparison to the line below it, 34.2% of the population in LA Metro area had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017 compared to 34.6% in 2018, but that difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level, because there's not an asterisk indicated.

Now, once you've gotten to a table that has data you're interested in, you may be wanting to save the results off the site. You can do that by right clicking the table, hover over export table and choose Export to Excel. Any of these right-click option are going to give you output. That looks very similar to the table display. Your geographies will be in the column with your labels on the left, and everything laid out in the same general order that it was on the table

The other way that you can work with the data off this site, I'm clicking back to my first tab that I had open. That was just from our last search where we pulled that data profile to for all states in the United States. What you'll see is the download button at the top of the table.

Most people do see this option. And when you click it, you'll confirm the vintage in dataset. Follow the prompts are pretty intuitive. And once the progress bar has reached 100%, you'll see in the lower left hand side, is this file for you to open up. And then you want to double click on this file that has data with overlays in the naming convention.

Now, this is going to give you a flat file format. So each geography has its own row. And as you follow across the row, all of the estimates that you saw on the nice table display on data.census.gov are here in a raw format without any special formatting or indentation applied, but it's a really great file format if you want to map or manipulate the data.

And with that in mind, we also have the option to map the data right on the site when you're in the table view and you click more at the top and map, it will take you directly to a map for that table. By default, it's mapped out. The very first line item contained in the table, total household. But we can change that very easily.

On the left hand side, you'll see a data variable drop down menu. And once you click it, you can scroll through the options. I like to scroll all the way to the bottom. It does load inspections, and once it stops jumping, I know that I've loaded all of the possible options on that table.

And then it's just a matter of going back up and carefully reading the labels. The nice thing is everything is laid out in the same order that it was on the table, so I will scroll, not quite halfway down, just like I did in the table to the Educational Attainment section. I'll look for the part that says population 25 years and over, high school graduate or higher percent estimate.

And now we've mapped that out across all states, you can see states with dark shades of blue have the highest value for that particular data point. You can also click on the map. Here, I will click on California and we can see that 83.8% of the population 25 and over, the high school graduate or higher. One last thing on the map on the left-hand side where it says View Table, if you'd like to look at the single estimate across all of your geographies, know that that option is available on the site.

And just want to wrap this up with the last type of table that will be released from the American Community Survey. I'll click the U.S. Census logo in the upper left and this product is the Selected

Population Profile. This is a profile characteristic for Detailed Population Groups broken out by ancestry, country of birth, race, or ethnicity.

As an example, I'll show you how to look at it Educational Attainment data in this table for the Korean alone population. Now, no matter what group you want, it's all under the topic filters on the left. We consider Korean to be an Asian race. So I'll click into race and ethnicity. I'm looking for a Korean checkbox as a final selection.

So I'll click first under Asian to get more detailed option, then choose Detailed Asian Alone. And now I see checkboxes with detailed group, 023 Korean Alone. I checked the box for that population group. It's been added to my screen. I click Search in the lower right and Tables in the upper left.

This particular table will tell us not only the total number of Koreans alone in the United States, over 1.4 million, but we can scroll down and look at all the characteristics. When we get to the Educational Attainment section, we can see as an example, 92.6% for this particular population group.

Going back to the slides here, we hope the demo was very useful to you. What we showed is the official way to access data from the Census Bureau. We're only continuing to make it better and better based on your feedback. So please let us know how we can make it work better for you by emailing cedsci.feedback@census.gov.

What we're able to show today was targeted specifically for the ACS release. If you're looking for something more comprehensive or slower paced, we definitely have other educational materials. We just did a recorded webinar yesterday. The slides are available and we'll be adding that soon. And there are definitely other formats of educational materials, just visit the link in the upper left of this slide.

Thank you all for sticking around for the demo. I'm going to turn it back over to my colleague and we'll begin opening up for questions in just a moment.

Leslie Malone: Thank you for the live demonstration, Tyson. Operator, can we start queuing questions please?

Operator: Thank you. And again as a reminder for a question or comment from the phone, and this is for media only, please press star 1. Make sure your phone is unmuted and record your name and

affiliation to introduce your question or comment, and you may press star 2 to withdraw that request. Again for a question or comment from the media only, please press star 1 and record your name and affiliation. Please stand by for questions or comments.

Leslie Malone: Thank you, operator. When you ask a question, we ask that you state your name and your affiliation. And because we want to give everyone an opportunity we'll allow just one question and one follow up per caller. As a reminder, please remember to speak clearly and limit background noise if possible.

Operator: And, again, as a reminder, that star 1 for media, record your name and affiliation. And to withdraw that request, you may press star 2. Once again for a question or comment from the media, you may press star 1, record your information and star 2 to withdraw that request. One moment, please.

Leslie Malone: While we wait for questions...

Operator: And our first question...

Leslie Malone: Go ahead, operator.

Operator: Sorry. We do have a question or comment coming from Gabriel Cortes from American Public Media. Your line is open. Please go ahead with your question or comment.

Gabriel Cortes: Hi, I'm a data journalist. This is going back to the first part of the presentation, specifically about the changes in family makeup, so non-married couples who have children, et cetera.

I've worked with income data tables before where you look at median household income, median family income, median non-family income, how are these new designation is going to affect that? And what would – I mean, what is going to be the better catch all category for journalists just trying to get – give readers context for how much people are making in a given area – given geographic area.

Gretchen Gooding: All right.

Ashley Edwards: Hi.

Gretchen Gooding: We're going to have – go ahead, Ashley.

Ashley Edwards: This is Ashley Edwards from the Poverty Statistics Branch. So we haven't changed the definition of families or households, so families continue to be defined by the Census Bureau as groups of people who are living together in a household related by birth, marriage or adoption.

And in this case, people can be related by marriage to the opposite-sex marriage or same-sex marriage. So the grouping of those individuals and families is consistent. It's just now you have more detail on how those individuals are married and related to each other.

Gabriel Cortes: Perfect, thank you.

Operator: Thank you. And again, as a reminder for a question or comment from the media, please press star 1, record your name and affiliation and you may press star 2 to withdraw that request. Again, for further questions or comments at this time, please press star 1, record your name and affiliation. Thank you and we are standing by for any further questions or comments. One moment.

Leslie Malone: Thank you, operator. While we wait for questions, I would like to remind you that Embargo subscribers will have access to the 2019 ACS one year statistics beginning at 10:00 a.m. on two Tuesday September the 15th. The full public release is set for 12.01 a.m. on Thursday, September the 17th.

To see this data prior to the September 17th release date, please visit – which you'll find on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) by clicking the Newsroom, then embargoed releases. After signing in, you'll have access to Embargo data in the press kit, including this webinar, presentation slides, data visualizations, and more. The Embargo area press kit link on this page will also take you there once the Embargo period begins.

Operator: And I'm showing no further...

Leslie Malone: Thank you, operator.

Operator: You're welcome.

Leslie Malone: I also want to remind you that there's a group specifically for you there is the American Community Survey data. The ACS data user group is a great way to learn from your peers about how to use the American Community Survey data for all kinds of applications. Membership is free, and the site also provides updates on upcoming ACS related webinars and conferences.

Becoming a member is a great way to learn and share the information amongst other data users about key ACS data topics. Go to acsdatacommunity.prb.org listed at the bottom of the screen to learn more, including how to sign up to be one of them more than 2,500 users in the American Community Survey online community. We recently made several improvements to the ACS online community website, so make sure to check them out.

As a reminder, we have data dissemination specialists throughout the country who can help you access local statistics from the American Community Survey, as well as other censuses in your area. These specialists also provide data workshops locally. If you're interested in a workshop or have any questions, please contact census.askdata@census.gov or call 1-844-ASK-DATA. Operator, any questions?

Operator: And I'm currently showing no further questions or comments at this time.

Leslie Malone: Thank you, operator, and for news media interested in speaking with an expert please contact the Public Information Office at 301-763-3030 or email at pio@census.gov and we'll connect you with the subject matter experts.

And finally, we ask that you please fill out the evaluation form. We want to ensure that these sessions are helpful to you. That wraps up today's webinar. Thanks for attending today and thank you to Charles and Tyson.

As a reminder, the data we have discussed today are embargoed until 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, September the 17th. We look forward to next week's release, and also to your use of ACS data.

If you have additional questions or wish to arrange interviews on the topics covered in today's news conference, please do not hesitate to call the Census Bureau's Public Information Office at 301-763-3030 or again, you can email us at pio@census.gov.

You can also visit [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) to sign up for email alerts about upcoming data product releases. I'm Leslie Malone and thanks again (for) ((unintelligible)).

Operator: Thank you. That concludes today's conference call. Thank you for your participation. You may disconnect at this time.

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