

2012-2016 ACS 5-Year Pre-Release Webinar

November 28, 2017

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Slide 1 – 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by.

At this time all participants are in a listen only mode. During the question-and-answer session you may press star 1 if you'd like to ask a question.

Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect at this time. Now I'd like to turn the meeting over to (Kristina Barrett). You may begin.

Slide 2 – Speakers

(Kristina Barrett): Good afternoon and welcome to the American Community Survey Webinar.

Today's webinar focuses on helping you prepare for the release of the 2012-2016 American Survey 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 the survey. Without them we wouldn't have these data which are important for America's community.

I am (Kristina Barrett). I'm a Public Affairs Specialist with the Public Information Office. Our presenter is Justin Keller. He's a Survey Statistician with the American Community Survey office. At the end of this presentation we'll open up the line for questions. Also after a brief question period Justin will do a demonstration of American FactFinder. Let's get started and over to Justin.

Slide 3 – Webinar Outline

Justin Keller: Thank you (Kristina). Here's an overview of what we're planning to cover today. First I'll talk 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'll walk through some of the American Community Survey data and documentation and various tools used to access our products, as well as where you can find most of the information covered in today's webinar. After a question-and-answer session I'll give a quick walkthrough of how to access block group level data in American fact finder.

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 their release. We'd ask that the others who have questions hold those until the second round of Q&A which will follow the American fact finder block group demo.

Slide 5 –ACS Data Release

So for our release next Tuesday the 2012-2016 ACS five-year data will be available for early release – early access embargo and publicly released next

Thursday. These estimates cover the 2012-2016 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 5 at 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time. Available through our embargo site for approved media will be all products on American fact finder. Please note that also available through the embargo period will be the five-year comparison profiles which are available on access.

Our public release will be Thursday, December 7 at 12:01 AM Eastern Standard Time. In addition to the five-year tables and five-year summary file the rest of our data products will be available. They include our narrative profile which is available through the ACS website as well as existing tools that'll be refreshed with five-year data such as data ferret, the API and Quick Facts.

Slide 6 – Thursday, December 7th

Specific to the five-year release we have products that highlight a few of more than 40 social, economic, housing and demographic topics including community income, poverty, gross rent and language characteristics. ACS blogs will cover the effect of off campus college students on poverty rates and where gross rents have increased.

Seven news graphics will be available. There's one map accompanying the blog showing the effect of college students on poverty rates at the county level and the other six will highlight languages spoken in the home. The first map will show the number of limited English-speaking households at the county level and the other five we map showing the percentage of speakers and five new language categories by combining statistical area.

To highlight commuting data to interact the visualizations we'll show the longest and shortest average one-way commute times by metropolitan area and the largest percentage of users of public transportation by metro area.

Slide 7 – Upcoming ACS Releases

Although the focus of the webinar is our five-year release I want to take the opportunity to promote several products that'll be coming out on January 18, 2018. First our 2012-2016 five-year public use micro data sample or PUMS, the ACS PUMS files are a set of un-tabulated records about individual people or housing units created for public use micro data areas or PUMAS which contain at least 100,000 people.

These files allow data users to create custom tables not available through pre-tabulated ACS data products. Second is our 2012-2016 variance replicate estimates and finally we'll also release the Spanish translation of the results of the Puerto Rico community survey for both one and five-year estimates.

Slide 9 – The American Community Survey

For those who aren't as familiar with our survey here's some basic information to be aware of. The American Community Survey is an ongoing survey that samples about 3.5 million addresses per year making it the largest annual federal housing unit survey.

The American Community Survey or ACS is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely social, economic, housing and demographic data every year. In fact the ACS collects data on a wide range of social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics, most of which were formerly collected in the long form of the decennial census.

Census 2000 was the last decennial census to collect both short and long form data. Since the ACS replaced long form information the 2010 Census only asks short form questions as will the 2020 Census. The ACS was fully implemented in 2005 and began collecting data for group quarters, for example college resident halls, correctional facilities and military barracks in 2006.

The sample expanded to its full size as it is today in 2011 from approximately 3 million to 3.54 million. The ACS publishes estimates annually in the form of one and five-year estimates for small geographic areas and population groups. One thing that distinguishes ACS from other federal surveys is that you get data from much smaller pieces of geography and smaller groups than you will from other surveys.

Slide 10 – ACS Content

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

Social characteristics include topics such as education, marital status, veteran status, disability status, place of birth, year of entry, 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 topics such as employment status, income, commuting to work, occupation, industry, health insurance and others.

Housing characteristics include topics such as tenure, information about occupancy and the structure itself, home value, housing costs which include mortgage, taxes, insurance, utilities, plumbing and kitchen facilities as well as

others. These topics are used to produce more than 1000 tables for local communities each year.

Slide 11 – 5-Year Estimates

Specifically for this release we're 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 average characteristics of an area over a specific time period, not a single point in time as is the case with the decennial Census.

In the case of ACS one-year estimates the period is the calendar year. The estimates in the five-year release describe the population and housing characteristics from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016. Five-year estimates aren't an average of the one-year estimates. The ACS survey data are pulled together across 60 months for the five-year data. After the data are pulled together they're updated with the geographic boundaries with the last year of the period -- in our case 2016 -- and then assigned the appropriate weights to produce population and housing estimates.

Weights are adjusted using population and housing totals controlled by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin which are derived from the Census Bureau's population estimates program. Finally income and dollar estimates are then adjusted for inflation based on the most recent year of the period. The latest five-year estimates are adjusted to 2016 dollars.

Slide 12 – Availability of ACS Data Products

Part of understanding five-year estimates is understanding the rest of the ACS releases. The availability of our ACS data products depends on the population size that lives in the geographic area. As you can see we produce data for

larger areas, those with 65,000 or more people using data from one calendar year.

ACS one-year supplemental estimates are 60 detailed tables that are available for geographical areas with populations of 20,000 or more. The Census Bureau created this product to respond to data user needs for timely data at smaller geographies. They're smaller, simplified versions of 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. And finally for the five-year estimates we pulled 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.

Slide 13 – When to Use 5-Year Estimates?

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

In general you want to use five-year estimates when the margins of error for the annual estimates are larger than desired. Margins of error is a measure of sampling 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 are comparing several geographies and one or more of those geographies don't receive one-year estimates due to population size you'll have to use five-year estimates.

Slide 14 – 5-Year Comparisons

If you're interested in comparing five-year data we encourage you to make comparisons only with non-overlapping data.

This year you can compare the 2012-2016 five-year data with the 2007-2011 five-year data. These non-overlapping data sets allow a comparison of unique data with unique data.

So only compare estimates of the same data set, for example compare one-year only with one-year and five-year only with other five-year non-overlapping data. Users shouldn't compare one-year estimates with five-year estimates.

Five-year estimates are helpful when you compare it across geography because all geographies are represented in the five-year as opposed to the 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 comparisons across sub-populations like ancestry and language groups.

Finally when making comparisons we recommend comparing percentages, means, medians and the rates instead of tally totals whenever possible.

Slide 15 – 5-Year Geography and Products

Those are the basics of our survey. Now let's talk about geographies and products available in the five-year ACS data as well as what our new and old both in this release.

Slide 16 – 5-Year Geography

First the geography. The five-year estimates include all geographic areas down to the block group level. Over 578,000 geographic areas and 87 different summary levels are available for five-year. Unlike the one-year ACS one-year releases geographies don't have to meet a particular population threshold in order to be published.

Geographies in the five-year release include nation, all states including D.C. and Puerto Rico, all metropolitan areas, all congressional districts with 115 Congress, all counties and places and all tracts and block groups- block groups being the smallest level of geography produced by the American Community Survey.

Slide 17 – 5-Year Data Products

Now for the data products. The five-year release consists of the following data products located in American Fact Finder. For reference the number of tables is indicated in parenthesis.

Data profiles are select estimates and percentages for a particular geography on a variety of topics in one table.

There are profiles for social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics as well as selected social characteristics in Puerto Rico.

New last year our comparison profile had had the same content as the data profile but with statistical comparisons the previous non-overlapping data so in this case 2007-2011.

Geographic comparison tables or GCTs allow you to easily compare geographies to one another. Subject tables contain estimates and percentages with detailed information by topic. Detailed tables contain estimates and margins of error only, organized by topic and are the most detailed tables in the products package.

Detailed tables by geography are also available in the five-year summary file.

Other products reside on different sites and will be available on Thursday. The narrative profile as well as data tools like data ferret, Census API and Quick Facts will all be refreshed with 2012-2016 five-year data on Thursday. Web-based applications, My Tribal Area and Census Business Builder will be refreshed with the 2012-2016 ACS data in the upcoming weeks.

Slide 18 – Noteworthy Data and Product Improvements

Noteworthy improvements have been made to the five-year data for language coding and presentations. We've expanded coding categories to conform to industry standard used by most translators. These allow for better differentiation of language category, provide better data products for a variety of data users and where possible maintain comparability over time with past language data.

Slide 19 – ACS New and Modified Tables

We have two new base tables this year, detail table C16001 for language spoken at home for population five years and over and C16002 for household

language by household limited English speaking status which is formerly table B16002.

We've also made minor modifications to four tables. In table B16001 we modified the languages included in the language spoken at home by ability to speak English to the population five years and over table. Table B09021 title changed from Living Arrangements of Adults 18 Years and Over in the United States to Living Arrangements of Adults 18 Years and Over by age.

We added a maximum contact attempt reach category to Table B98021 and then for B98031, B98032, and the B99 series tables we revised terminology to state allocation rather than imputation. The change in terminology for these tables was so that the titles and labels more accurately state what's been reported in these tables all along. There's been no change to the content of the tables or to the underlying methodology to which they refer.

Slide 20 – 2012-2016 ACS 5-Year Variance Replicate Estimate Tables

Because it is a newer product I just wanted to go over a little more information about our five-year variance replicate estimate tables. This product was first released in July 2016 for the 2010-2014 data.

These 108 tables are an alternative to the available approximation formulas for margins of error that we provide on our website.

Each table includes a set of 80 variance replicate estimates for selected ACS five-year detailed tables to calculate margins of error when combining ACS estimates within a table or between geographies. This product is for the very experienced data user and is available via the FCC site with links also

available on American Fact Finder. Please check out the link at the bottom of the page to review documentation and table shells for the variant replicate tables.

Slide 21 – 5-Year Comparison Profiles

Now for the five-year comparison profiles that were new last year. The profiles are similar to that of the data profiles. The profile's organized by social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics with previous non-overlapping period estimates included, in this case 2007-2011 along with the 2012-2016 data with statistical significant testing done for you.

An asterisk is provided in the statistical significance column if the current five-year estimate is statistically different from the previous five-year estimate. The nice thing is it's done for you and you don't have to do this testing yourself.

These profiles aren't available for every summary level but they're available for nation, all states including D.C. and Puerto Rico, all congressional districts, metro and micro areas, counties and places with populations of 5000 or more. Again we hope you find these tables useful. Our one-year comparison profiles are one of our most popular products. We hope it'll be the same with these five-year profiles.

Slide 22 – American FactFinder (AFF)

All the tables that I just discussed are available on our main dissemination tool for ACS, American Fact Finder. You can access American Fact Finder or AFF at factfinder.census.gov.

Slide 23 – 5-Year Summary File

We talked about the five-year summary file also being available next week during our embargo period. This product intended for advanced users includes all estimates and margins of error from the detailed tables and geographies that are published for the ACS in a downloadable format. To access this data go to the ACS website at census.gov/acs. On the left navigation select Data then select Summary File Data and finally the five-year summary file.

Please note that the slide you see now won't be available until December 7. If you're trying to access the summary file during the embargo period you'll need to access it through the Press Kit.

Slide 24 – Narrative Profile

The five-year narrative profile is one of our most popular products. It isn't available on American Fact Finder but is available on the ACS website. This product is a pre-generated report that describes a geographic area by providing text and graphics for 15 different ACS topic areas. These reports help novice users to interpret the data. A direct link to the site is available at the bottom of the screen where users can choose to reproduce a report on all 15 topics or just a subset for selected geographies. Narrative profiles will be available on release day.

Slide 25 – Application Programming Interface (API)

API which stands for Application Programming Interface is a tool for collecting the variables and data you need in raw format from the Census Bureau's ever increasing tool of data sets. It's a tool that presents data in a

standardized way. By standardizing the API query across multiple data sets 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 use for inputting, presenting and manipulating data in whatever format you choose. With the API you can select any variable in multiple data sets and place them in raw format in the format of your choice.

The API includes many Census Bureau data sets including the ACS one five-year data sets as well as the ACS migration flows – and supplemental data.

If you're interested in learning more about the API you can view our webinar on using the Census API with the American Community Survey from this past June on our website.

Slide 26 – Data Tool Updates

As I mentioned several of our data tools will also be refreshed with the 2012-2016 five-year ACS data. Quick facts will be updated with the data on Thursday. If you're not familiar quickfacts is an easy to use application that shows tables, maps and charts of our most frequently requested information from more than 10 Census surveys and programs. In the coming weeks we'll have the 2012-2016 ACS data refreshed for Census Business Builder and My Tribal Area.

Census Business Builder is a mapping tool geared towards small business owners interested in starting or expanding a business. My Tribal Area is our newest application. Very similar to the look and feel of My Congressional District, My Tribal Area gives five-year ACS characteristic estimates for the 632 tribal areas by geography.

Slide 27 – Accessing Data Tools

Quick Facts, My Tribal Area and Census Business Builder can all be accessed by going to the main Census website at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

You then want to select data in the top tool bar and under data tools and apps you'll find a link to each of these tools.

Slide 28 – [Data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

[Data.Census.gov](https://data.census.gov) is the next thing we'll be talking about and is a bit different from the others as it's still in development. It's also less a tool and more a new data dissemination platform.

Slides 29-32 – [Data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov) – Preview Platform

The Census Bureau is in the process of redesigning [Census.gov](https://www.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](https://www.census.gov) search bar. Since [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) is a working website we've developed a preview platform at data.census.gov. This preview site will continue to be updated every few months and later this year the platform will become the search functionality that underlies all [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) data and content.

Our development is based on user feedback. I encourage you to check us out and provide comments and cedsci.feedback@census.gov.

Twenty sixteen ACS five-year estimates will be available on data.census.gov on a release day. Because it's a preview site all data will not be available. However we're encouraging people 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. One exciting product we have available on data.census.gov is the re-imagination of Quick Facts called our geography profile.

We're just testing them out but you have them available for all counties in the nation. We'll have them available with the 2016 five-year data on release day but until then they're available with the 2015 five-year data.

Slide 30 –

The next couple slides we'll show you how to access the county profiles using Anne Arundel County, Maryland as an example.

First you type the county you want to see in the search box and click on the correct county when it appears below. You'll also see some information related to the county when it pops up.

Slide 31 –

When you click on the county name you're taken to the geographic profile where you'll see a variety of statistics in really easily digestible format.

Charts, graphs and maps help demonstrate the data. As you scroll down you'll see more and more estimates and graphs that get data users an overall sense of the county. Again these county profile pages will be available on December 7 with a 2016 ACS five-year data. We're excited to be releasing some of the five-year estimates on the new data dissemination platform and hope you check them out and provide your feedback.

Slide 32 –

You can also learn more about the new platform during a webinar specifically on data.census.gov on December 12. You can visit census.gov training page

to register. Our success depends on data users like you. Please visit data.census.gov regularly and provide your feedback to cedsci.feedback@census.gov so that you can be part of this success.

Slide 33 – ACS Documentation

Now that we've discussed the products for this release and where you can find them I'm going to show you where you can find some helpful documentation about the American Community Survey.

Slide 34 – ACS Website

The best place to find information on the ACS is from the ACS website as census.gov/acs.

The tabs at the left help guide you to what you need including news and updates, data, guidance for data users, technical documentation and so on.

Slide 35 – Data Release Information

While the website is pretty intuitive I wanted to highlight a couple of useful pages. Information for the 2016 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 a release schedule and the table changes that we've just discussed.

Slide 36 – Technical Documentation

Here's the Technical Documentation page. In the left navigation bar under technical documentation there's a list of important documentation that'll help you better understand the ACS including links to codes or detailed codes for variables such as ancestry and occupation, subject definition further defining

the variables, also PUMS documentation, summary file documentation and links to user and errata notes.

Slide 37 – Comparison Guidance

Since the 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 website.

To access our comparison documentation pages you'll need to use the left hand navigation guide and click on guidance for data users and underneath that select comparing ACS data.

A drop down will be provided for the year. You want to select the year you're interested in comparing, in this case 2016. I'd also like to point out that in the middle of the table is a link to comparing five-year data to other non-overlapping five-year data. Comparisons over time can become tricky because of question changes and different universe definitions.

When trying to make comparisons it's important to reference this documentation first to make sure the data you're interested in should be compared. For example the definitions for urban and rural change every ten years so they're different in 2011-2015 than they were for the 2006-2010 data. It's suggested that you use caution when making past year comparisons.

Slide 38 – Statistical Testing Tool

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

webpage has changed. The tool is now located under Guidance for Data Users then Statistical Testing Tool.

For media a link to this tool is also available in your Press Kit. With that I'll turn it over to (Kristina) for the first round of questions.

Slide 39 – Questions

(Kristina Barrett): Okay. Before we take questions I wanted to let you know that today's presentation is now or will very shortly be available through the Press Kit section of the Newsroom on Census.gov.

Also an archive version of this webinar will be posted within the next few days. Now we're going to pause and take a few questions before we move on to our next topic on how to access block group data on American Fact Finder. We'll first take calls from the media.

We ask that you state your name and your media affiliation when you ask a question. We want to give all media opportunity to enter a question. Therefore we'll only allow one question with one follow up. Please dial 1 for the operator and with that operator let's open up the lines and take some questions.

Coordinator: At this time if you'd like to ask a question you may press Star 1. Please remember to unmute your phone and record your first and last name clearly when prompted. In the event that you'd like to withdraw your question you may press Star 2, one moment please as we wait for questions.

(Kristina Barrett): And while we do wait for questions I'd like to let everybody know that we have a big event happening at the Census Bureau tomorrow. The Census Bureau is hosting an event that'll showcase how 11 tech companies, 6 federal

agencies and 15 nonprofit and local government are collaborating to transform data into innovative digital solutions.

News data tool created by these companies ranged from video games and website to communication tool tackling a number of challenges such as reaching hard-to-count populations and helping homeless, youth and veterans to find resources they need. For information on the Opportunity Project go to Census.gov and there will be a Census live event.

Click on the Census live link and you can see what's going on. That'll start at noon tomorrow. Okay operator. Do we have any questions?

Coordinator: At this time there are no questions in queue. Once again if you have a question please press Star 1 and record your name.

Slide 40 – Accessing ACS 5 Year Block Group Data in American FactFinder

(Kristina Barrett): Okay. Since we don't have any questions at this time we'll turn the presentation back to Justin and he'll show a quick demonstration on accessing block group data using the download center in American Fact Finder.

Slide 41 – What is a Block Group?

Justin Keller: Thanks (Kristina). Block group data were added to AFF beginning with the 2009-2013 five-year data. Before we begin let's quickly go over what a block group is.

Block groups are statistical divisions of Census tracts and defined to contain a minimum of 600 persons or 240 housing units with 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 George's County in Maryland, tract 8001.02 which splits into three block groups, block groups 1, 2 and 3. Because the block groups nest within this tract their combined populations equal that of the tract as shown on this slide.

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent of a county or a county equivalent and have a minimum population of 1200 people or 480 housing units with a maximum 8000 people or 3200 housing units. Census tracts have an optimum size of 4000 people or 1600 housing units.

Slide 42 – Access American FactFinder

Now that we know a little about block groups to access the data you go to American Fact Finder at factfinder.census.gov. We'll walk through a couple of examples by using the advanced search and download center features in the blue toolbar at the top of the screen.

Slide 43 – Finding Your Block Group in American FactFinder

First let's take a look at the feature that allows you to easily find your block group.

To get started click the Advanced Search button on the blue toolbar then click the light blue geography box on the left side of the screen and select the Address tab on the overlay that appears.

You'll now have the option to type in a specific address of interest. In this example we used the address for the Census Bureau Headquarters, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland and clicked Go.

This gives us a list of the different geographic areas that the address belongs to. For example we can see that the address is part of block group 1, census tract 8024.05 in Prince George's County, Maryland. While this is a useful tool to find a specific geography perhaps you're more interested in accessing data for a lot of geographies in bulk. In this case we recommend using the download center.

Slide 44 – 1. Start

To get started click the download center on the blue toolbar. Choose the radio button for I know the data center table that I want to download and click next.

Slide 45 – 2. Dataset

Under the select a program drop down you want to select American Community Survey.

Under the select a data set and click Add dropdown we will pick the 2015 ACS five-year estimates for the point of this demonstration, when the 2012-2016 five-year estimates are released you can obviously choose that data set. Then we'll click on add to your selections button and click next.

Slide 46 – 3. Geographies

Under the select a geographic type drop down we want to select block group. Under select a state, choose your state of interest. Here we use Maryland. Under select a county, choose your county or counties of interest. You can

also bypass this step and select all block groups within Maryland under select one or more geographic areas and click add to your selection.

The download center is the only spot in AFF where you can get all block groups for your state. The advanced search tab only lets you select all block groups for your county. After this you want to click next.

Slide 47 – 4. Search Results

Under select table to download you want to check the box next to your table or tables of interest.

Here we selected table B01001 for sex by age. Click next. A window will then appear confirming your selections. Once everything is good, click ok. Another window will appear as your table or tables are downloading. When the file is complete click download button to save the file to your computer.

Slide 48 – Table B01001

Here when we have the unzipped CSV file for sex by age, table B01001 and opened it in Excel. You can see our geography for block groups in Maryland in column C and our estimates and margins of error in columns D and up. Remember the exact process for unzipping and opening files and may vary based on your computer.

That was the AFF download center. If you need guidance on using the advanced search in AFF please refer to the great 2016 one-year ACS webinar available in the Press Kit. That concludes our demonstration and with that I'm going to turn it back to (Kristina).

Slide 49 – Questions

(Kristina Barrett): Thank you Justin. We now have a few more minutes and we can take some more questions. Embargo subscribers will have access to the 2012-2016 ACS five-year statistics beginning at 10:00 AM Eastern Time Tuesday, December 5 for release at 12:01 AM Eastern Standard Time Thursday, December 7.

To see the stat prior to the release of December 7 visit the embargo area which you'll find on census.gov by clicking Newsroom and then Embargo Releases. After turning in you'll have access to the link to the – you'll have access to the link of the embargo data, the presentation slides and webinar and everything included in the Press Kit. Operator do we have any questions?

Coordinator: We have a couple questions in queue. The first one comes from Blair Israel from Centralia COG. Mr. Israeli you have an open line.

Blair Israel: Thank you. Hello this is Blair Israel Central on the Council of Government. I just wanted to know where we can access the list of the table names. In other words a table was used just a moment that has the name B01001. I also have trouble finding where those are so if I need something I can go to it and find, okay what's the number for that one, for that table?

(Kristina Barrett): Within American Fact Finder there's an advanced search that was demonstrated during the webinar. When you go into your advanced search there's a section there where you can enter the table number that you're looking for and search for that particular table.

Blair Israel: Yes I'm aware of that. It's just how do I find – if we know what we're looking for but we don't know the table number because we don't work with table numbers. How do we find out where's the source that shows us okay, if we're interested in this particular item what's the table number for that so I

can look up that table number? In other words the code that you all use, where is the code book?

Justin Keller: That'd be available on the Technical Documentation section of the ACS website.

Blair Israel: Can you narrow it down for me?

Justin Keller: Census.gov/acs.

Blair Israel: Technical documentation but where do we go in the technical documentation? Is there a title for that or some way to help us find that?

Justin Keller: That'd be the table shells.

Blair Israel: I'm sorry say that again, table what?

Justin Keller: Table shell.

Blair Israel: Table shelf?

Justin Keller: Shell as in turtle shell.

Blair Israel: Shell, table shell. Okay that's what it's called. If we look for table shell it'll have all those listed and what subject matter each one of them is.

Justin Keller: Correct.

Blair Israel: Okay, all right. Thank you very much.

Justin Keller: Sure thing.

Coordinator: Next question comes from (Omar Roui) from La Rue. You have an open line.

(Omar Roui): Yes hello. Can you hear me okay?

Justin Keller: Yes sir.

(Omar Roui): Okay. This last example going through the Fact Finder, it was very useful. I use Fact Finder quite a bit. One of the things that I research a lot are incomes within tracts to try to get down to the granular level as much as I can. What I notice though is that at the block level that particular piece of information or incomes in that area is very seldom available.

I've seen it available in some locations but in the majority of the – at the block level it doesn't seem to appear. On the Census tract level it's everywhere. Is there a way of getting it at the block level? Do you have to maybe search later years or is that just something that is not possible to get?

Kirby Posey: This is Kirby Posey from the income branch. Are you looking at median household income? Are you looking for an income distribution at the block level?

(Omar Roui): No I don't look at median. I look at – it's usually labeled inflation adjusted. In fact let me see. I think I've got one. Actually this one doesn't have it. It's average incomes.

Kirby Posey: Okay. You mentioned you were looking at the block level. Do you mean block group?

(Omar Roui): Exactly.

Kirby Posey: Okay.

(Omar Roui): I don't – you know, I don't typically look at it as the block group level because the majority of the time it's not there. I've just been deciding to look at it at the Census tract level. I'd love to be able to find it at the block group level and that's my question. Is that even available or is that just...

Kirby Posey: Well I know that in some cases – you said you weren't looking at medians but medians are suppressed if the margin of error associated with the median is larger than the estimate itself. As far as the income distributions they could also be suppressed if the data are sparse.

We looked at some coefficient of variation and if the coefficient of variation doesn't meet a particular threshold that particular income distribution will be suppressed. That is my best guess of what might be happening and why you're not seeing it at the block group level but you might be seeing it at the tract level. It's just the sample size isn't large enough to show something this detailed for that level of geography.

(Omar Roui): Right. That's what I figured as well.

Kirby Posey: I think that's what's going on.

(Omar Roui): Yes okay. I don't like using median income because it's already been, you know, statistically modified but that's fair. That answers my question.

Kirby Posey: Okay.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Karen Gap) of Lockheed Martin. You have an open line.

(Karen Gap): Hello, yes thank you. I have a question. If you have a list of addresses that you're, you know, from some kind of program data and you want to relate it back to a Census block group or track is there a tool that we can use or that's out there for a specific address identify the block group and track it in individually? It could be hundreds of addresses.

(Gretchen): Hello this is (Gretchen) from Census. I think there is a batch geo coder that you can use. I don't know much more than that unless...

(Karen Gap): Is it part of Google or is it...

(Gretchen): I think its part of Census Bureau but I think if you're searching on our website for a batch geo coder.

(Karen Gap): Batch geo coder, okay. Thank you.

Coordinator: Next question comes from Nick Kahn with FEMA. You have an open line?

Nick Kahn: Hello this is Nick Kahn from FEMA Region 2. At the beginning of the webinar you talked about a graphic that was going to be released on limited English-speaking households. Will that graphic contain data for Puerto Rico and if so at what level of geography will that be at?

(Kristina): Hello this is (Kristina) from the language area. Actually it's not going to contain the information for Puerto Rico. We have it for the U.S. by county but we didn't include the municipalities of Puerto Rico because the definitions

are so different for limited English proficiency of course there. If you're not a Spanish speaker you're more a concern for emergency management.

Actually we were in touch with FEMA, somebody with FEMA management providing some data on English only households in Puerto Rico. That's not going to be in our graphic but that is in our table if you do need that information for Puerto Rico municipalities. You can find that on Fact Finder to find the number of English only households in Puerto Rico which we consider a better indicator of people who need special translation help for emergency management. Yes the graphic is going to include the U.S.

Nick Kahn: Okay thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Meghan Holtan of Agnew Beck Consulting. You have an open line.

Meghan Holtan: Yes this is Megan Holton. I had a question. You had mentioned at the beginning that the ACS is based on a sample of 3.2 million households across the U.S. We work in Alaska and a lot of times we're using the ACS for really small geographies, small populations. I was wondering if you could give an idea of the average number of households that are used to create the estimates for these smaller Census tracts and even counties like when you have a county that's a couple thousand people, more or less. How many households make the sample on a yearly basis or are they pulled in the five-year estimate?

(Mike): Hello this is (Mike) from the Census Bureau. If you – table B01001 and B01002 are published, they include – give the number of un-weighted person and households for the different – for the geographies that we publish.

Meghan Holtan: Okay.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Joseph Wade of Utah State Legislature.

Joseph Wade: Yes. My question is regarding the geography that's attached to the data. For instance this upcoming release and I looked in the incorporative places. Would that be using incorporated places as of December 31, 2016 or would it be January 1, 2017 or January 1 of 2016?

Man: That'd be January 1, 2016.

Joseph Wade: Okay. Would that be true with House districts and Senate districts, state House, state Senate?

(Tyson): Hello. If you go to [Census.gov/acs](https://www.census.gov/acs) on the left hand navigation which we're starting to pull up here now for you in just a moment you'll see geography and ACS. You'll click on that and then you'll see geography boundaries by year. That will bring you a chart. You'll click on the year of the ACS that you're working with. I'm going to go through those steps now here. It's [Census.gov/acs](https://www.census.gov/acs). As it's loading here I'll continue to talk you through it.

Once you click on the geography boundaries by year you'll see a list of all of the different years. You'll see a tab for 2016 which you'll want to use that tab if you're working with the 2016 ACS one-year estimate or the 2012-2016 ACS five-year estimate. That will tell you the boundaries, what they're based on when you're in the data set. It'll say January 1 for the places and then I don't know what it says for state legislative districts but that's in the chart if you scroll to it. It'll tell you exactly what that boundary states are.

Joseph Wade: Thank you.

(Tyson): You're welcome. Sorry it wasn't loading up here.

Coordinator: The next question comes from Kim Goodbear of Cheyenne Arapaho Tribe.

Kim Goodbear: Hello. I have one question about pulling data for tribes. A lot of times all of the tribes are combined into one. Is that going to be able to be dispersed with specific tribes or is it still going to stay combined altogether?

(Tyson): Hello this is (Tyson) again. When you say tribe being combined can you give an example of what you might be talking about?

Kim Goodbear: When I'm looking up pretty much anything when it comes up tribes. We have a nine county area out here at Concho in Oklahoma. When I'm doing researching for stuff that I'm doing we need to know exactly how many tribal members are in a county. With that it combines all Native Americans and not by what tribes.

(Jason): Okay, yes. You probably want to check out – we just released in July the 2011-2015 ACS five-year selected population table in American Indian Alaskan table. If we're able to get it pulled up I will show you some information. There's a pre-released webinar that talks you through how to search and you can pull up data for specific tribes.

There's over 1000 detailed tribes that you can get data in American Fact Finder for and you'd be able to get the estimates that way as opposed to having them all aggregated for American Indian in general or some of the larger tribal grouping. That's the most detailed and recent information that we have available through the ACS for that.

Kim Goodbear: Okay great. Thank you.

(Tyson): You're welcome.

Coordinator: At this time there are no further questions. Once again if you have a question please press Star 1 and record your name.

Slide 50 – American Community Survey Data Users Group

(Kristina Barrett): Okay thank you. While we wait for questions to queue up we wanted to let you know about the ACS data users group. Membership in the ACS data users group is free and its community open to anybody who's interested in the ACS and wants to learn more about using the data and showing best practices. There are currently more than 1900 group members. You can learn more at acsdatausers.org.

Slide 51 – Need Local Stats or Training?

And then also while we're waiting I wanted to make sure everyone knew about our information resources around the country. We have a network of data specialists who can arrange training or provide data assistance. You can contact their public information office at 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 as well as Census information centers which are a network of nonprofit national and community groups to help underserved populations access the data.

During the embargo period data specialists have embargo access and are available questions, provide interviews or sound bytes and give context to the data. The elicited state data users is available at census.gov/fcc. In addition the list of state data centers will be on – in the Press Kit once that becomes live on December 5.

Slide 52 – Questions?

Operator do we have any questions?

Coordinator: Yes. We have one more question. It comes from (Glenda Prentiss). Glenda you have an open line.

(Glenda Prentiss): You have a Tiger product where you join the demographic data with the Tiger align files and currently you have the 2010-2014 ACS up there. Do you know the timeline when you'd have that product released or is it just combined so you can use the data and NGIS?

(Gretchen): Hello this is (Gretchen). I don't know the exact release date but I think they usually come out in the Spring. For the 2012-2016 trials I think will be available in the Spring but I'm not certain.

(Glenda Prentiss): Okay thank you.

(Kristina Barrett): Okay. I understand we're having some technical difficulties. Again this – the webinar slides are posted on the Press Kit which is available on census.gov. and then going to Newsroom and then Press Kit and the slides will be available.

Slide 53 – For Further Information

We're almost finished with our presentation. We'd like to hold for some more questions. But for more information news media is going to sit and speaking with subject matter experts. You can contact the public information office at 301-763-3030 or email us at pio@census.gov and we'll connect you with a subject matter expert.

Slide 54 – Continue the Conversation #ACSdata

Also if you want to continue the conversation use the hash tag ACS data to see what ACS data is trending now. Also be sure to visit us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Pinterest. Operator do we have any questions?

Coordinator: There are no questions in queue. If you do have a final question please press Star 1.

(Kristina Barrett): Okay. As a reminder I just want to let everyone know that (unintelligible) are embargoed until 12:01 AM Eastern Time on Thursday, December 7. It will be available to look at on – at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, December 5 and it's embargoed until December 7. If you have any questions about the embargo or accessing the embargoed data please call 301-763-3030 and we'll do one more call for questions.

Coordinator: And there are no questions in queue.

(Kristina Barrett): Okay. This wraps up today's webinar. We want to thank everybody for joining us today, thank you Justin and thank you to those of you on the phone. I'm (Kristina Barrett) and have a great day.

Coordinator: That concludes today's conference. Participants may now disconnect. Thank you.

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