Using American Community Survey Summary File Data Webinar Transcript

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Slide 1: Using American Community Survey Summary File Data

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you all for standing by. At this time, I would like to inform all participants you will be on a listen only mode until the question and answer session of today's conference call. If you would like to ask a question, please press Star 1 on your touch tone phone. I would also like to inform all parties that today's conference call is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the meeting over to Gretchen Gooding. Thank you. You may begin.

(Gretchen Gooding): Great. Thank you, Lisa. Thank you everyone for joining us for today's Webinar on using the American Community Survey Summary File Data. My name is Gretchen Gooding and I work in the American Community Survey Office here at the Census Bureau. I want to remind you that the slides for this presentation are available at the URL on the screen. I think Greg also sent it out via chat.

So, if you want to download those to follow along, and just know that as I'm talking, there's no need to frantically write down all those URLs because they're available for you in the pdf. And then also in a week or two we will also have the slides, the transcript from today and also this recording available as resource for you if you want to pass that along to a colleague or listen to it again.

And also, at the end we'll be doing and evaluation. So, let's get started.

Slide 2: Outline

All right. So, today I'm going to talk about some basics about the American Community Survey. Likely you are familiar with most of this material. I think it's always good to go over it, including the content availability of data products and available geographies.

I'm also going to talk about the American FactFinder Download Center. I suspect that many of you are interested in block group level data. And I just wanted to show you kind of a quick way to access that data without actually having to go into use the summary file.

Then if you're still interested, I'm going to show you an overview of the ACS summary file and different ways you can assess that data including the summary file retrieval tool, DataFerrett, the census API, our FTP site, and TIGER/Line Shapefiles. And then I'm going to wrap up by going over some resources on our Website discussing different ways that you can stay in touch with the Census Bureau and then I'm going to open it up for questions at the end. And you can do those questions over the phone or you can also send them in via chat with Greg while I'm speaking.

I also want to let people know that based on feedback from last year, I'm going to try to jump back and forth a little bit more between the PowerPoint and also doing some more live demonstrations. So, I'll be curious on your feedback if you'd like that approach.

Slide 3: American Community Survey is Foundational

So, what is the American Community Survey? It is foundational. It is our nation's most current, reliable and accessible data source for local statistics and critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income and employment. Now I'm going to talk about more of the characteristics that we capture on a future slide. We survey about three and a half million addresses annually and these data are collected continuously

throughout the year to produce annual social, economic, housing and demographic estimates. The ACS is also used to distribute more than $675 billion of federal government spending each year. We cover the resident population of the United States and Puerto Rico for people living in housing units and group quarters. Housing units include living arrangements such as houses, apartments or mobile homes.

And group quarters -- also known as group housing -- are group living arrangements that are owned or managed by an entity or organization for example, dorms, correctional facilities or barracks. The ACS was designed to produce critical information on small areas and small population groups that were previously collected once every ten years as part of the decennial census long form.

Now we're going to talk about some of those small geographies are in a couple slides. We cover more than 35 topics, supporting more than 300 known federal uses and countless non-federal uses to produce 11 billion estimates each year. We also release three different sets of estimates each year in the form of one year and five-year data sets. As well as one-year supplemental estimates. And then it discussed these data products in more detail on an upcoming slide.

Slide 4: ACS Content

So, as I mentioned, the ACS content is - can be grouped into four main types of characteristics -- social, economic, housing, and demographic. The social characteristics -- I'm not going to read everything, but you can see that among all these characteristics there's a lot of, you know, topics you see regularly in the news on social characteristics, we include popular topics like educational payments, school enrollment, language spoken at home, veteran status, demographic characteristics include age, Hispanic or Latino origins, race, relationship to householder, sex. Economic characteristics always include the

ever popular, commuting, journey to work, employment status, health insurance coverage, income and earnings.

And then housing includes one of our newer topics, which is computer and internet use, as well as other things like rent, monthly home owner costs, value of home, vehicles available, whatnot. Each question ACS is required for federal and state government programs. The topics are used to produce over 1,000 tables for local communities, resulting in more than 11 billion estimates per year.

Slide 5: Selected Census Geographic Concepts

I would like to say that what puts the community in the American Community Survey is our geography. And the ACS provided data for more geographies on an annual basis than any other household survey. These are some of the geographies where the ACS data are produced and the relationship between them. For the lower geography areas fit neatly within the larger areas directly connected with lines. So, for example, school, congressional districts and state legislative districts fit neatly within states and do not cross state boundaries.

As you can see our smallest geographic building block is the block group with the smallest geography available. And the block groups are between 600 and 3,000 people. Another thing I like to point out in this slide in the upper right corner, are zip code tabulation areas. That's our equivalent of zip codes and you can see that they actually fall under the nations. This will come up in a slide I have soon. But basically, the codes actually, they can cross state boundaries, which people don't expect. And that kind of plays into how we organize them in the summary file. We'll talk about that in a little bit.

Slide 6: Availability of ACS Data Products

The availability of our ACS data products. They're released one year after the data are collected. And our first year of data collection with a full sample was

in 2005. So, the ACS data collected in 2016 was recently released in 2017 as one-year estimates and also as our five-year estimates. So, the ACS one-year estimates combined data collected over twelve months and they're available for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more and we released the 2016 ACS one-year estimates in September of 2017. The ACS one-year supplemental estimates are 60 detailed tables that are available for geographic areas with a population of 20,000 or more. They're basically simplified versions of popular ACS tables. And we released the 2016 ACS one-year supplemental estimates in October of 2017.

And then our five-year estimates, combine data collected over 60 months and they are available for geographic areas of all sizes all the way down to the small tracks and block groups and we released the 2012 to 2016 ACS five-year estimates in December of 2017. So, we just recently wrapped up our 2016 data release season.

So, ACS data are available for geographic areas with a population of 20,000 or more in the form of one year and five-year estimates and they're available for geographic areas with a population less than 20,000 in the form of five-year estimates. So, if you're particularly interested in data for small areas, you would likely be using the five-year estimate.

Slide 7: Outline

I'm going to go into one of my first slide demos and I'm going to walk you through how to use the American FactFinder Download Center as a way to access block group data. So, I'm going to go to there and all right. There we go.

Slide 8: AFF Download Center

Well, I'm going to go to American FactFinder. It's located at factfinder.census.gov and from this blue ribbon, I'm going to click on the download center. And you can see I have it highlighted here in yellow. I'm

going to click on that. And then you can see that the download center - it has this kind of nice step by step guide for downloading data. And the reason why you might want to come to the download center is that its one of the easier ways to download block group data and its available here from the 2009 to '13 ACS five-year estimates to present. I'll talk later about a way that you can access the older block group data, which would be through the summary file.

Slide 9: 2-Dataset

So, I'm going to click on I know the dataset of our tables that I want to download, which is already defaulted. And then I'm going to click next. And then I'm going to get to step two where is going to ask me about the program I'm interested in. So, here I'm going to pick the American Community Survey. But if you're interested in data from our other areas like the decennial census or the economic census, you could also pick those data sets. But luckily ACS is right there at the top of the list.

And then it's going to ask me to select a data set. And so, I mentioned earlier we have data going back all the way to 2005. And it's in here. And I'm going to pick our most recent five-year estimates because I know that's where our block group data is located and it's the most recent block group data. I'm going to pick that. Say add to your selection. And you can see now in your selection. My dataset is picked. And then I'm going to pick next.

Slide 10: 3-Geographies

And then in step three, it's going to ask me for my geography that I'm interested in. And this drop-down menu, you'll see lots of different levels of geography, some of which you saw on a previous slide. And the ones that are greyed out are not available for this particular data sets, but they could be available for another program.

So, here I'm going to go to block group. And that's one of the lines that's in white so that means it's available. And I'm going to click on that. And then it's going to ask me to select a state. So unfortunately, you cannot download all the block groups for the nation at one time. You have to do it by state.

Here I'm going to pick Michigan, which is always my example. It's where I grew up. And then I could pick block group data for just a single county. One of the really great advantages of the download center is that I can get all the block groups within the state of Michigan -- or whatever state you choose -- I'm going to select that. I'm going to say add to your selection.

Slide 11: 4-Search Results

And so, now in my selections I have a data set and I have my geography. I'm going to click on next. And then it's going to give me all these different tables that I can choose. Over 300. And in this example, I know which one I want. So, I'm just going to type it in this yellow ribbon. It's B23025. So, I could kind of scroll through to find it. But I'm just going to take this little shortcut, and this is employment status for the population of 16 years and over. I'm going to select that and then I'm going to say next.

Slide 12: Table B23025

And then here, you're going to get a screen about downloading your data set. And say okay. And then it'll say that your file is being created. And one of the nice things is that I do have these files already saved on my computer, but it looks like its going really fast. So, I'm just going to open it up. Can you see the - okay good?

And then I'm going to use WinZip. So, this may vary depending on what computer system you're using and what software you have. But this is my - what I have on my computer. And then it's going to download a file. I'm going to be able to open up. Let's see if I have it.

So, in this zip file, you're going to see a couple of different files. And I'm going to see ACS16 five year. The data that I picked. The tables that I picked which was that B23025 and then within this is with annotations. And then you can double click on that.

I'm going to use the file that I already have open. And then you're going to get a table and you'll see in this column I have all my different block groups in Michigan. And it has the table that I selected, the estimates, the margin of error and then the next estimate, margin of error, et cetera. That's what I think most people would say is the easiest way to download lots of block group data at one time. And you could do this for another geography like tracts or counties or whatnot. But I just wanted to show you that in case that's what you're looking for and you don't actually need to delve into using the summary file.

Slide 14: Outline

But if you do, let's stay tuned and I'm going to go back to my PowerPoint. And I'm going to go back down to slide 14. All right. Now I'm going to go into an overview of using the ACS Summary File. So, what is the summary file? It is a set of comma-delimited text files that contain all of the detailed tables.

Slide 13: Table IDs Explained

You might be wondering - sorry let me go back - I've got one slide I wanted to show you. I talk a lot about table IDs. For example, I said B23025. And I know for us at Census that means something. To a lot of outside users, it's a little bit confusing about how we come up with these table names. So, I just wanted to explain because the naming convention we use in FactFinder is also what you'll see on different other tools like the application programing interface and summary files.

And so, what that B stands for is it's a type of table - this is what we called a detailed table. This means it's the most detailed estimate of all topics for all geographies. And then most of our tables are followed by two numbers and those numbers correspond to a subject. The 23 corresponds to employment status, work status last year. If the table would be a 01 or 03 or 16, those would correspond to other subjects. And then usually afterwards there's a three letter or three number table number. And these are basically a sequential number that uniquely identifies the tables within a subject.

So, if you're interested in learning more about how we name tables including all of our different tables, tables that start with an S or an R or GCT we have a really great spot on our Web site that explains how these table IDs work. And I wanted to make sure I got that in before I moved on to the summary file.

Slide 15: What is the ACS Summary File?

All right. Now we're back to an overview of the summary file. I just mentioned what is the ACS summary file? It's a set of comma-delimited text files that contain all the detailed tables. And what I mean by that is that the file contains estimates separated by commas. I'm going to show you what I mean in the next slide.

And then by detailed tables, I mean just what I discussed. The table naming for those tables that start with a B or a C. They're stored in a series of files on the FTP site. And they contain only the data from the tables. There's no information, such as a table title, a description of the rows or what you might be using to seeing in American FactFinder.

And the data has already been tabulated for specific geographic areas. This is similar to what you would see in FactFinder. The tables - you cannot create your own tables like you might do with the public use microdata sample data. Or the PUMS data.

Slide 16: AFF vs. Summary File

So, to kind of further clarify what I'm talking about, I have an example from the American FactFinder from the table. And then I have the same information from the summary file. And I just want to kind of point out the differences and how they look. So, in the upper left-hand corner, I have this table -- again its B23025 -- and you can see I have that table Id.

And then it gives me the title, which is Employment Status for the population 16 and over. It tells me the universe for that table. It is the 16 and over. Again, it wouldn't make sense to ask about employment status for a two-year-old or an eight-year-old. And then it also tells me what data set this is from.

So, this is the 2016 - 2012 to 2016 ACS five-year estimates. Again, we have data going back to 2005, so it's helpful to know which data set you're looking at. And then you can see, you have this table and you can see that I'm specifically looking at block group one. Census track one for Alcona County, Michigan. And then I have all of my estimates here in the column. Their corresponding margin of error.

And so, I can see the total core response of 595 and labor force is 186, whatnot. So, it really easy for you as a - with your eyes to kind of digest that information that you're looking at.

On the right-hand side, I have the same information from the summary file. As you can see that these are just estimates and they're separated by commas. Those same estimates as my table from FactFinder but again without all that descriptive information. We're going to talk about how we can interpret this on a future slide.

Slide 17: Example-NOAA's Coastal County Snapshots

And then if you're thinking, "How am I ever going to make sense of the summary file? It's just a bunch of estimates separated by commas." I do

want to show you that there's light at the end of the tunnel. I'm going to show you an example from one of our sister agencies. This comes from NOAA's Coastal County's Snapshot. From their office for Coastal Management. And so, they're using summary file data here and they were very gracious to source us as a Census Bureau Summary File. And they're showing a flood exposure snapshot. They have information about people, infrastructure and land broken up by areas of the county that are located inside or outside of a FEMA flood plain.

So, this tool is using our summary file data along with a bunch of other data sources. And you can see two examples where we have a population over 65 a large percentage is inside of the flood plain. And also, the population in poverty, a large percentage is inside of a flood plain for this particular parish in Louisiana. And so, this could help the community realize that while they have a flood risk that these might be populations who would have a difficulty evacuating or taking action. So, this kind of information could help them plan. And again, they're just using our summary file data, combining it with some other data sets, making a really interesting and, you know, easy to digest product.

Slide 18: How to Use the ACS SF

Right. So, let's talk about how to use our summary files so that you can make your own cool visualizations and products. You first want to verify that your table is available. That your geography level of interest. So not all of our tables are available for all geographies. Some are only available for the nation or not available to block group levels. You want to make sure that that information is available.

And then you want to use one of our different tools to access the summary files. And I'm going to go through these roughly in order ease of use. We have the retrieval tool and DataFerrett. And get into the API. The FTP sites.

Then for those of you interested in mapping, I'm going to talk about a product that has our shape files pre-joined with demographic data.

Slide 19: Summary File Page

So, again, I'm going to switch over and I'm going to go over to the Web site and show you our summary file page. All right. You can see? Good. So, I went to census.gov/acs and this is our American Community Survey homepage. And then I'm going to go to technical documentation on the left-hand side. And then I'm going to go down to summary file documentation. And again, these URLs are on the slides, so you can access them later.

This is our summary file documentation page. And if you want to verify that your table is available at the block group level or really any geography, I'm going to recommend first that you check your year of interest. I'm looking at our newest data from 2016. And then you should check out the (appendices). There's a link here that the five year (appendices). And of course, I have that downloaded already.

Slide 20: Check Appendix for Table

And so, you open up this excel file and it has all (unintelligible) - it has all the table numbers and the table titles. So, again, that same naming convention you saw in the earlier slide. And its - since I'm still interested in this B23025, I have it highlighted here so it's a little easier to follow this example. I can see that its employment status for the population 16 and over. And then I get column C to see if there's any geographic restrictions.

And fortunately, there are no restrictions on this table that if you were looking for another table, you might see that it's not available at the block group levels or it's only available for the nation. And so that would be very helpful for you if you're working on this later.

And then you're going to see a column for the summary file sequence number. This is information you want to jot down. We're going to talk about this later. But I see that this is located in sequence 79 and then in column E, it's starting and ending position is 38 through 44. I'm going to talk about what that means in just a moment. But I would jot that information down if you were re-creating this example.

Slide 21: Why do I see missing values in my file?

And then I want to go back to our slides. And talk about a common question that we get from people, found here in slide 21. We often hear from data users who say, "Why do I see missing values in my file?" So, later on when you open up summary files, you might see a file that has a bunch of commas that are just comma after comma, right. And they think something's wrong. They think that the data wasn't uploaded properly or whatnot. And more time than not, why this is happening is the estimate's unavailable.

And usually the reason is due to a geographic restriction. Usually what happens is they're saying this table is missing and then you go in and you look at that appendix I just showed you and see, oh, it's actually not available at the block group level and so that's why you're seeing a bunch of commas. But from the other tables in the sequence are available. That's why you might see some data but then also a lot of commas.

There's also a couple other reasons where a value might be missing. Due to coefficient of variations or Disclosure Review Board requirement. But usually it's due to a geographic restriction.

Slide 22: Outline

All right. I'm going to go on and talk about ways that you can access summary file data. I'm going to talk about the retrieval tool. This is useful for those of you who are looking at older years of block group data in particular.

The FactFinder Download Centers do not block group level data in it until 2013.

Slide 23: Summary File Retrieval Tool

So, if you're looking for some older years of the summary file block group data, the summary file retrieval tool is a good resource. It's no longer being updated. But again, useful for those older years. It allows you to load tables from summary files into an excel spreadsheet and then you just run the tool. And you can access old tracks and block groups per table, per state.

Again, we're no longer updating this tool but helpful for older years.

Slide 24: DataFerrett

Another tool I used to demonstrate in past years when I've given this Webinar is DataFerrett. I think any Census Bureau fan is familiar with DataFerrett and its awesome ferret graphics. So, I'm not doing a demo this year. And I do have it recorded from last year if you're still interested. But it was a couple of issues. Web browsers are starting to discontinue plugins that support DataFerrett. So, users are starting to have some issues with accessing it. So, I've included contact information if you encounter that issue. Both an email and address and phone number. And then also, the Census Bureau is in the process of creating a new microdata analysis system that will eventually replace DataFerrett to access summary file as well as the PUMS data.

And they hope to have a prototype in place this summer for data users to review and provide comments. I believe that's only for the PUMS portion, not for the summary file piece yet. So, if you have any functionality that you'd like to see, or any suggestions, I've included an email address to cedsci.feedback@census.gov. You can send your suggestions that way. Again, if you're looking for a demo of how to use this for summary file data, you can look at the past years' version of this Webinar and the recording and check that out.

Slide 26: Census API

Now I'm going to talk about the API or application programming interface. This is - sort of a newer tool - hasn't been around for too many years. But it's definitely very popular and definitely of interest to developers. We're looking to access data to create software applications. The API includes the ACS data as well as many other of our data sets. And you can see the URL there on the screen to learn more at census.gov/developers. It's really great if you want to mix and match data sets and geographies and you don't have to access the entire table. You can just pull whatever information you want.

Slide 27: Table B23025

So, again, I'm using the same example over and over again. This B23025. But you can see I pulled this and made an API column. If you look down at the red API column, you can see I picked the 2016 ACS five-year data set. I picked this table B23025. And I'm interests in the first estimate from that table. Or block group in the state of Michigan, of course, state number 26. And the first county in Michigan, which is Alcona County.

So, again it's pulling up that information for you. And we're going to do a Webinar later this year about using the ACS in the API. So, if you're interested in this tool, we'll have more information I believe it's in June.

Slide 28: Outline

Slide 29: Summary File Organization

All right. Now I'm going to talk about the FTP site. I kind of - I'm working my way through kind of the easiest to hardest data tools. And the FTP site is definitely kind of the home of our summary file data. And I'm going to jump over to do a little bit of a live demo again.

Let me go back to our Web site. So, I've accessed - let me go back. All right. So, I'm at the ACS FTP site. You can see the URL is on your slide. And then just let me go back up one more level. Sorry. This is the ACS FTP spot. They have lots of different information. I'm going to click on the summary file folder and then the summary file data is organized by year. So again, I'm going to use 2016 because that's our most recent information. And then I'm interested in the data from the summary file. I'm going to click on that folder. And then if you're following along in the slides I'm on slide 29. This is where I got my screenshot.

So, we have one-year summary file data and then also our five-year summary file data. There's three different folders here for five year: by state, by the entire summary file, and sequences by state. These are all the same combination of files, they've just been arranged differently to accommodate various user needs.

So, I'm going to pick the sequence by state. And of course, you know by now I'm going to pick Michigan, but you can pick your state of interest. And then I'm going to have an option here of either picking a file or folder for all geographies not tracts and block groups or tracts and block groups only. And I'm told by our call center that this is one of our more popular questions. Is people say, "Well, what's in what file?" So, obviously if you're looking for tracts and block groups only, then you would pick that folder and any other geography you'd want to pick the all geographies not tract and block groups.

So, I'm going to click on tracts and block groups only. And then you're going to see all of these different files and of course here at the Census Bureau they make perfect sense how they're named to us. But I know for outside users it's a little bit confusing. I'm going to jump back into my slides to show you what this looks like and how you can make sense of it.

Slide 30: File Naming

So, here I am on slide 30. And so again, you saw all of these different files and I just kind of took a little chunk out for my screenshot and I asked you earlier to write down the sequence number. It was 79. And so, this is how that information comes into play. So, first I have the 2016 and that's the reference here right. So, I'm looking at the 2016 data. If you have a multiyear file, if you're looking at five-year data. It goes by the last year in the period. So, the 2012 to 2016 ACS summary files would be in the 2016 folder.

Five is the period covered. I'm looking at a five-year estimate. If it was a one-year summary file, you would see a one year. Michigan is my state that I'm picking. Obviously, these are the two letter state abbreviations. And if you're interested in another state you would see that abbreviation. And then 0079 is my sequence number and so on an earlier slide -- on slide 20 -- I said that table B23025 was in sequence 79 and I recommended that you write down that information.

Basically, there's so many tables in the ACS that we can't fit them all into one zip file. So, the tables are grouped and stored in different sequences. So, for example, you know, tables 1 and 2 are stored in sequence 1. Three, four and five are in sequence two. The eventually when you get up to B23025, its in sequence 79.

And then the 000 is just called an iteration ID. And it's always 000 across our ACS products. And now when you go into this file and you're like, "Woah! What are all these numbers and letters?" You can see that it does have kind of a naming pattern that makes sense.

Slide 31: Estimate, MOE, Geography Files

And then when you unzip your sequence file, you're going to see that there is a file that starts with an E called the Estimate File. The file that starts with an M, which is our margin of error file. And then also geography file. And so,

the E obviously has all the estimates for those tables. The M has all the margins of error. Then the geography is a different geography.

Slide 32: Where can I find ZCTA files?

One of the more common questions we get from data users is a really common geography called ZCTAs, or Zip Code Tabulation Areas. They're basically the Census Bureau equivalent to zip codes. I talked about that earlier on the geography side at the beginning of my presentation. And a lot of times people will ask us, "Where can I find the ZCTA files?" And they're located in the US file.

So, I talked about those two letter state abbreviations -- MI for Michigan. There's also one called US. And that has a geography across state lines. And as I mentioned zip code tabulation areas or zip codes -- not often -- but on occasion do cross state lines. That's why we put them in our US file. And there's also some other geographies in there like metropolitan or urban statistical areas. American Indian, Alaska Native, Hawaiian Homelands, and Urban areas.

And then if you're looking in those files - those state file for DC or PR files, these are state level geographies or cross state geographies. So, you'll find states, counties, county sub-divisions, place, congressional district, PUMAs, school districts, whatnot. But these are geographies that would nest within the state.

Slide 33: Starting and Ending Position

So, I wanted to show you a screenshot of what happens when you open up one of these sequence files. Earlier I also made a point of saying to write down the starting and ending positions. So, I said you want to pay attention to the fact that it's in sequence 79 and it's in the position of 38 to 44. And so, in our file, you have these six fields that include the metadata like the file

identification. You're looking at a summary file. 2016 E 5, so you're looking at the 2016 file, it's a five-year file. MI stands for Michigan.

Again that 000 is iteration, 79 is the sequence we're looking at. And then we also have this field called logical record number and this is used to connect the estimate file to the margin of error file and the geography file. And then you actually find your estimate that you're looking for. So those are actually - that's actually your estimate for that table. B23025. That's that 595, 186. Again, the same information we saw on FactFinder. We saw earlier but here it is in the summary file.

Slide 34: Templates

And if this doesn't quite make sense to you and you think "How am I ever going to find information in here?" We also include these templates. There's one for each sequence and you can merge your data from excel in here and then insert your estimates or margin of error text file into this template. Then it kind of helps you make a little bit more sense of what you're seeing. You can see that that 595 is the employment status for the population 16 and over. The total - the 186 is for in the labor force, whatnot. But it helps make it a little bit more digestible for us.

Slide 35: Outline

Slide 36: TIGER/Line Shapefiles Pre-joined with Demographic Data

All right. For those of you who are interested in mapping or GIS. You may be familiar with our TIGER/Line Shapefiles. So, these are our shapefiles that are pre-joined with demographic data. And I'm told that the 16 five-year estimates will be in there very, very soon. They haven't been released quite yet. We'll also be hosting a Webinar if you're interested in using these files with Arc map and it will be coming up in May.

Slide 37: Outline

Slide 38: Summary File Documentation

All right. I'm going to wrap up. You made it this far. We're almost done. And we're going to open up the line for questions here in a couple minutes. So, I just want to remind you again about our summary file documentation page. I'm going to go back and show you that on our Web site. Again at census.gov/acs. I went to technical documentation and then I went to summary file documentation.

So, again this is where you can find our text doc. Where you can find the appendixes. It's also where you can find the table shells. So, if you're interested in just seeing what the tables look like without data in them, they're available there. We also have another page, so if you go to technical documentation and then Code Lists, Definitions and Accuracy.

Slide 39: Subject Definitions

Our subject definitions are usually very popular with data users. If you're interested in figuring out how we define certain things. What do we mean by room? What do we mean by different kinds of educational levels? All those definitions are available in this document. It's very comprehensive. That's a good resource for all of our data users, no matter what product you're working on.

Slide 40: Options for Accessing Bulk Data

And then I want to wrap up by just giving you kind of a summary of what we talked about today. I went through a lot of different options for accessing our data. I started with our FactFinder. The Download Center. So again, this is where I got all the block groups for the state of Michigan. And so, it's nice that you can download one geography type at a time. A maximum of 40 tables per download.

I talked about if you're interested in older block group data, you can use the summary file retrieval tool. It has our data sets through 2012. Also talked about DataFerrett. It's still there. You may have issues accessing it, but it is good if you want to download a large number of geographic areas for a small number of tables. I talked about the census API or the application programing interface. And it's helpful if you - you can call only the variables and the geographies that you want so you don't have to necessarily download an entire table. We have our FTP site. This has everything. It has every detailed table for every possible geography. And then if you're interest in mapping, we have those TIGER/Line Shapefiles that are pre-joined with demographic data.

Slide 41: Questions?

We're going to open up the line for questions and then also Greg will be sending out a link with the evaluation and it will also be emailed to you tomorrow I believe. So, if you have feedback, if you liked going back and forth between the slides, whatnot, I'd appreciate having those comments from you. Operator?

Coordinator: Thank you. We will now begin the question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press Star 1 on your touchtone phone. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly when prompted. Your name is required to introduce your question. Please record only your first name. You will be introduced by first name. To withdraw your request, please press Star 2. One moment please for the first question.

Slide 42: Upcoming Webinars

(Gretchen Gooding): Okay. While we wait, I have a couple informercials for you. So, one of the questions I saw via chat was if we have a date for our upcoming Webinars. And that's a great question because we do. So, we have a number of upcoming Webinars. We have one in April about using estimates and margin of error and we'll be doing that in partnership with our math stats. So that's a

super informative Webinar. May 16, is the Webinar about using those Geodatabase files with ArcMap. If you're interested in mapping stay tuned.

In June, if you're interested in API, developing any kind of application with the ACS data, we'll be hosting that Webinar and then we have two newer Webinars. I was disconnected. We'll have two new Webinars, the Census Bureau 2017 Planning Database and Using Maps. That's a new Webinar for us and then also one on - for geographic basics. So, its areas and concepts for the ACS and that's a new Webinar we'll be hosting August 1st.

Slide 43: Continue the Conversation

Then we also invite you to continue being in touch with us. We have a hashtag: #ACSdata. So, if you're on social media, consider using that. We have emails that you can sign up for. Maybe how you heard about this Webinar. We have our Web site that I talked about. A call center at 1-800-923-8282. The email address for user support, which is acso.user.support@census.gov. And then you can find us on social media at US Census Bureau.

Operator, do we have any questions yet?

Coordinator: At this time, I do have one question. The first question comes from Roger. Your line is open.

Roger: Hi. I never knew about the download files field. It was brand new.

(Gretchen Gooding): The download center? Yes, that's a little gem that not everyone knows about.

Roger: I've never seen that, and I've been doing this stuff for a decade and I've never seen it. But what was frustrating. So, while I was on the phone - while you were on the thing I was trying to download something and so I was able to

download but there was no - there were no data because. And that was sort of frustrating not because if you went to say, the regular ACS stuff and you know, you couldn't' get it. There were no data for that field, you'd know it because it wouldn't let you do it. But this doesn't do that does this? So, I could download something and get literally nothing but a chart labels. Is that correct?

(Gretchen Gooding): I think what you're saying is you picked a table at the block group level that wasn't really available and then you just basically got an empty file?

Roger: Well, yes. Yes, just the labels and stuff like that but nothing. I was looking for - what was I looking for. Foreign born in Africa and whatever. So, I was - I had an actual reference question on that topic and said oh, this would be a good one to do. But alas, you said, nothing. Okay. I just want to make sure that you could get that, and you would - which is different than what I would do when I was using the way use ACS most of the time, which is when there are no data, you just say nope. They won't even let you download it because there's nothing to download.

(Gretchen Gooding): Yes. You may want to check. I pulled up the appendix and you may want to check your table and see if there is a geographic restriction, but I believe that is how FactFinder behaves is it just gives you that empty file.

Roger: Okay. Well thank you.

Coordinator: At this time, I show no further questions.

(Gretchen Gooding): Okay. And let's see. I'm looking at some questions that were sent in via chat. Someone asked about the lowest resolution and that's correct. Block groups are the lowest level of geography that we have in the ACS.

Is it possible to get data for children less than six years rather than less five years? I don't know that off the top of my head. You may have to use the PUMS files or the public use microdata sample files. It depends on what geography you're looking at, what not. But I think zero to five is a pretty common breakout in FactFinder. Again, you can follow up with us using our email address, the acso.user.support@census.gov, and we can look into that for you.

Will block level data ever become available? I think maybe what you're asking is if its going to become available in FactFinder for those older years when it wasn't in FactFinder. I do not think there are plans to move it into FactFinder. What are the others. There's a question, I'm not sure, I talked about the date for the Webinars.

Is there an updated EEO tabulation available beyond the 2006 - 2010 five-year ACS data? Not yet. And I am not sure when the next ones are coming out. That's a good question you could email into us. And the subject matter experts know but I'm not sure off the top of my head.

And is there a date set for the release of the TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the 2016 ACS data. I've been told by my geography colleagues very, very, very soon. Like I would expect it within the next week or two. But you can again follow up with us via email.

All right. Are there any more questions from the phone?

Coordinator: I do have one additional question. The name was not recorded. Your line is open. You may ask your question. Please announce your first name.

Jesus: Hi. This is Jesus. I wanted to know if there were, which one of these data sources is the best for retrieving county level data for multiple variables of

interest. So, always interested in seeing the breakdown of adult populations working by race at the county level. Which one would it be DataFerrett?

(Gretchen Gooding): Probably just FactFinder. I guess it would depend if there is a table that's already pre-tabulated with what you want. Which there likely is. There's just so many different tables to go through. But if it's a pre-tabulated table, I think probably just using the FactFinder would be the easiest way.

Jesus: Okay. I asked because FactFinder always mainly deals with like one variable at a time and if you begin to add the and variable…

(Gretchen Gooding): Yes.

Jesus: …its just limited in what it can do as far as customizable inquiries.

(Gretchen Gooding): Yes. So, you may want to be looking into the public use microdata samples. Those are the PUMS Files and that's where you can create your own tables of interest. You just take the variables and you can make your own crosstabs. And there was a Webinar my colleague did two weeks ago that's on our Web site. You can look at that as a resource. Or you can try looking more in FactFinder and seeing if we already have that premade table.

Jesus: Okay. Thanks.

(Gretchen Gooding): And I'm going to follow up on the question about EEO. My supervisor ran in here and gave me a piece of paper and she said that the next EEO tabulation will be release will be fall 2020 or spring of 2021. And it's going to use the ACS - the 2014 to 2018 ACS five-year data set. So, you have a few more years until that's coming.

Let's see, I have another question about ACS used to release three-year estimates. Are these discontinued? Yes. They were discontinued like 2014 was the last year that we released them, and the older years are still available on line but we're no longer releasing those.

And then are there going to be any Webinars on the Econ census? I'm not sure. I don't know - I know that they're definitely gearing up for the economic census. I'm not sure what their Webinar schedule is. There's a Census Bureau training page. Let's see if I can get to that. I'll go to data. Right so I just went to census.gov and then I went to data and our blue ribbon, then I clicked on training and workshops, and it looks like there is a Webinar coming up on the 2018 Economic programs Webinar series on healthcare. And that I'm told is about one of about six Webinars that's coming up. So, they are definitely doing plenty of Webinars.

And then, lets see. This one asked about if we would collect information on childcare data. I know that's a topic of interest to me. I have a kid in childcare. ACS does not collect it. We would need a federal agency to say that they needed us to collect it. But I know that the Census Bureau releases information about a child's day and I think that's the name of the report. It has information about that. Again, if you want to send us an email, we can look into that for you. But I don't think there are any plans to add that to the ACS soon.

Let's see. What was the release date for the EEO tabulation? So again, that's going to be in the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021 and it's going to be the 2014 to 2018 ACS five-year estimates.

Let's see. I need to get information for the county level, but I need to exclude a couple of cities. What's the best way to do that? Let's see, I'm not sure if you're trying to get like all the cities within the county. Probably the easiest

way is to just download all the data and then just exclude those cities. That would be a good question to send to us in email and we can talk about that more.

Operator, are there any other questions on the phone?

Coordinator: At this time, there are no further questions.

Slide 44: ACS Data User Group

(Gretchen Gooding): Okay, this is kind of fun to get the questions via chat. We haven't done this too often. I want to give you a few more informercials before I end my call. One is the ACS data user group. So, this is a group that helps to improve the understanding of the value and utility ACS data. We promote information sharing among data users. Membership is free and open to all interested data user. I believe we have over 2,000 now on our online community. We include presentations and recordings from past conferences. We have Webinars and different special sessions. And they also have this user group Web site and online community and you can see the URL there at the bottom. There's a group just for summary file data users.

So, there's different kind of interest groups on there. You can post question, about maybe different software you're using. Different challenges you're having and more often than not, you'll get a great reply from the community.

Slide 45: Need Local Stats?

And then also, I want to give a shout out to our data dissemination specialists. These are people who really know how to speak data and they're located all across the country.

So, they're regional staff that can help you access statistics from the ACS or from any of our other programs. And I should point out its also free. A free resource for you. They can come do a presentation to you. They can do

Webinars. And again, their contact information is on the screen and they're really a great tool for you.

All right if we have no more questions on the phone, I think we'll call this a rap. One last check. Are there any questions?

Coordinator: At this time, there are no further questions.

(Gretchen Gooding): All right. Thank you everyone for joining us. Remember you're going to get that evaluation either by chat now or by email tomorrow and again we really appreciate your feedback. If you liked using chat to send your questions versus the phone that would be good to know. We don't use that functionality all the time. And if you liked live demos versus PowerPoint, let me know, and we'll incorporate that feedback into our future Webinars this year. And again, thank you for joining.

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

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