

NWX-US DEPT OF COMMERCE

**ACS 1 Year Estimates PRERELEASE Technical Webinar
September 12, 2013
1 p.m. EDT**

Coordinator: ...and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen only mode. During the question and answer session, please press star 1 on your touchtone phone. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. Now I'll turn the meeting over to Mr. Michael Cook.

(Michael Cook): Good morning. I'd like to welcome everybody to today's re-release embargo Webinar for the 2013 American Community Survey one year estimate. I'd like to also, before I introduce our speaker, go over some ground rules for everyone.

If you can hear me but are having issues with logging in to the Webinar, you can access Census.gov, our homepage, and on the slide image, slider number one, we'll take you right to our media advisory and on the media advisory, you'll be able to see that log in information.

If, for some reason, you have the ability of seeing the screen right now, you see the audio information there as well. Also, we will be holding a Q&A after the presentation in which we'll be taking questions from the media first and then the public second.

And so without further ado, I'd like to welcome our presenter today, Ms. Gooding, survey statistician in our American Community Survey Office.

Gretchen Gooding: Thank you, Michael. We're having some problems advancing the slide. There we go. All right, so I want to do an outline of what we're going to

discuss today. First, we're going to go over our release schedule, not only for just the one year estimate but also for the three and five year estimates that are coming out later this year.

Next, we're going to go over ACS basics, for those of you who may be new to the survey. Then we're going to be talking about how you can access our estimates with American Fact Finder as well as the new tool, My Congressional District.

We're going to talk about data product changes, including the new modified and deleted products from last year. We're going to go over some topic reports that are being released in conjunction with the one year estimate.

We'll discuss comparison guidance and talking about comparing this year's ACS to previous years or other data sources, including the current population survey that's coming out around the same time as the ACS.

We'll talk about navigating our Web site where you can find a lot of the information we discussed at the Webinar today. And then we'll talk about ways you can keep in touch through our upcoming Webinars, conferences and data user groups.

So let's start with our 2012 ACS release schedule. Obviously, we're here because of the one year estimates coming out. So they're going to be embargoed to the media by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 17th and released to the public at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, September 19th.

September 17th probably sounds familiar to you because it's also the same day as the current population survey release. Our ACS estimates - our ACS

release includes all tabulated data products and summary files and then covers geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more.

Later this fall, we'll be releasing our three year estimates that covers the time period of 2010 to 2012. They'll be embargoed to the media on October 22nd and released to the public on October 24th.

And the three year estimates cover geographic areas with populations of 20,000 or more. And then finally, we'll be releasing our five year estimates that covers the time period of 2008 to 2012 that will be embargoed to the media on December 3rd, released to the public on December 5th. And this covers all geographic areas regardless of population size.

Also, I want to talk a little bit about our public use micro data sample release or PUMS files. They contain individual housing units and person records with limited geographies to ensure confidentiality.

The PUMS files are on a slightly different release schedule. So the one year PUMS will be coming out later this fall. I don't have an exact date yet. And the three and five year PUMS, the release date is to be determined. Now, at the bottom of the screen, you'll see a URL where you can learn more about the PUMS and throughout the presentation I'll have URLs listed so you can learn more about our products.

So here're some basics about our survey. It's an ongoing survey that samples about 3-1/2 million addresses per year, making it the largest federal housing unit survey.

It's designed to produce critical information that was previously collected in Decennial Census. And so if you can think back to Census 2000 and had both

a short and long form, and the idea moving forward, is that the 2010 census would only be that short form, ten questions in ten minutes, and the ACS would start to provide this more detailed information on a regular basis.

The ACS was fully implemented in 2005. Group quarters, also known as group housing, was added in 2006 and we expanded the sample in 2011. We collect data on a wide range of characteristics - demographics, social, economic and housing - and this includes most of those topics that were formerly collected in the long form of the Decennial Census.

And we publish our estimates annually in the form of one, three and five year estimates for small geographic areas and population groups. And one thing that distinguishes the ACS from other federal surveys is that you'll get data from much smaller pieces of geography and smaller groups than you will from other surveys.

So some basics for the geography for this release - it includes all geographic areas of 65,000 or more and this includes, of course, our nation, all states, D.C., Puerto Rico, all metropolitan areas, all congressional districts.

And this includes the new 113th congressional district boundaries and all places and - counties and places of 65,000 or more. And in total, this approximates about 7,000 geographic areas.

And these geographic areas receive most, if not all, of the data products I'm going to describe on our next slide. Let me pause here and take a little water. All right, so our one year data products, like I mentioned, this release is our tabulated data products and it consists of profiles, and so this is where you go if you're interested in learning about a piece of geography.

So, for example, if you're writing for a particular media market and you're not interested in any one topic, but you want to learn something about all the different topics in the ACS. And this includes both estimates and percentages.

If you're interested in how a piece of geography changes over time, you'd be interested in our comparison profiles. It has most of the same information as profiles but it covers the last five years of the survey, so that would be 2008 to 2012.

And it also includes statistical significance for the current year compared to earlier years. If you're not necessarily interested in a piece of geography, but a population group, you'd want to look at our selected population profiles. These include race, Hispanic origins, ancestry and place of birth.

And they have most of the same characteristics as other profiles. If you're interested in how a piece of geography compares to other pieces of geography, you'd want to look at our ranking tables and our geographic comparison tables or GCTs. And these compare states to other states, all the counties within a state, et cetera.

If you're interested in a subject, for example, veterans educational attainment and you want to lot of data on a topic in one single table, you'd want to look at our subject tables and these also include percentages along with estimates.

And then finally, if you're looking to really kind of fill out your story with the most detailed information from the ACS, you'd want to look at our detail tables.

So now I want to show you how you can access these different data products through American Fact Finder. All the tables are available on Fact Finder and

the URL is factfinder2.census.gov. And there're a lot of different ways you can do this. I'm just showing you the way that I prefer.

And so we're going to start with the advanced search at the top of the screen, so in that blue bar, and start by clicking there. So now you're on our advanced search page. And you can see the advanced search is kind of highlighted in gold at the top of the screen.

And I always like to make sure I start with your selections in the upper left-hand corner and making sure that that's empty. If you have anything in there, it's going to start limiting your search results.

And then we're going to use primarily topics and geographies on the left hand side of the page. All right, so now I want to talk about how you can select the 2012 one year estimates.

And so what you're going to want to do is expand topics on the left-hand side of the page and my co-navigator, (Tim), is showing you that with the mouse as well.

And then you're going to see the select topics overlay screen and so you can see plus signs next to people, housing, et cetera. And what you want to do is go down to data set and check the - and click on the plus sign next to data set.

And then the first result you should see is the 2012 ACS one year estimates. And next to it in parentheses is the number of tables associated with this release and so you can click on the blue title there, 2012 ACS one-year estimates.

So now I'm going to talk about how you can select your product types and we talked about those product types a few slides ago. And so first I want to point out in the upper left-hand corner, in your selections, you can see the data set that we just selected.

So now your search results are limited just to the 2012 ACS one year. You won't be seeing anything from 2011 ACS or Decennial Census, et cetera. So what you're going to want to do is, again, click on topics on the left-hand side. And then this time instead of going all the way down to data set, we're going to click the plus sign next to product type.

And then you can see the product types that we talked about before. In this case, I'm going to do the comparison profiles. And when you're done, you want to make sure that you check the upper right corner of the select topics overlay and click on the close button.

All right, so now you can see, in the upper left-hand corner in your selections, we not only have our data set but we also have the product type that we selected comparison profiles.

And if we stopped here and looked at our results, it would default to the nation. But I think many of you are interested in local data, so I want to show you how you can find data specific to your community, and we're going to do that by using the geography box on the left-hand side.

And again, like before, we're going to expand geographies and you see on our screen the select geographies overlay box appears. And then we're going to select a geographic type.

And so that has a dropdown menu and the default tab is list. There's also a tab for name, address and (maps) and again, there's more than one way to get this information but we're going to stick to using the list tab today.

And so when you click on that dropdown menu, you see all the different geographies that are available for these one year estimates. And you also notice that some are - some of these geographies are grayed out. And what that means is that they're not available for the one year release.

So a good example would be track. They're not available in the one year. you won't see those until the five year release. And so even if your geography does show up, here you can see place, as an example, but when your geographies - it's only available for places that meet our population threshold, the 65,000 or more.

You're not going to get all of the places in the United States. So here I get to place, for my example, and when I do that it kind of fills out the select geographic type of place and then it's going to say pick a state, and it's a dropdown menu.

Here I picked Illinois for my example. And then it'll say select one or more geographic areas and click add to your selection. And the only cities you're going to see here are places, are ones that are available for the one year release.

And so in this example, I'm picking Chicago. And I'll also point out that you can pick more than one city here or you can go back and add more than one geography. You don't have to limit it to just one.

And then I'm going to say add to your selection. And then I'm going to close out of the geography overlay. So now you're probably sensing a pattern. In

your selections, you're going to see not only our data set and our product type but also the geography you picked.

So our search results now are specific to Chicago city, Illinois, not the nation. And so now you can see the search results in the middle of the page. And so we have four options for comparison profiles.

You can see a column with the table ID, so CP02 through 05, and then the tile of each table. And when you click on that table, it'll send you to the actual table itself.

And so now I've actually switched over, using our 2011 ACS estimates. This is what's available on our live site. I can't show you 2012 just yet or I'd probably get fired.

So here's our comparison profile. And all the comparisons in here have undergone statistical testing and all the comparisons are statistically different, are flagged with an asterisk.

And so I can see the title of my table. It's CP03. And I know that I did a great job in picking Chicago because it comes up in the header row of my table.

And so I'm going to go down and look at the row - mean travel time to work in minutes. And so I can see the 2011 estimates, the 2010 estimates and then there's the column for 2011 to 2010, statistical significance.

And what I did is I - and so I see an asterisk here, and what that means is that there's a difference between the two sets of estimates that is statistically different. And the statistical testing is done using margins of error at the 90% confidence level.

And all of our estimates are published with margins of error and they should be used when comparing estimates. And one more feature, with the comparison profile that's really nice, is that it does the installation adjustment for you so that the previous years are adjusted to the current year.

So in this - in the comparison profile, I saw the mean travel time to work for Chicago. Now you might be thinking, how does that compare, how does Illinois as a state compare to other states?

And so next you can take a look at our ranking table. And here I have R0801, the mean travel time to work for work 16 and over who did not work at home in minutes.

And I can see that title here at the top of the page and then also I have the option of looking at this table with statistical significance. And if you've been around long enough, you may remember that this was a feature in the old American Fact Finder and it wasn't available initially in the new AFS, but it's back now.

And so I clicked on that and then you can see in the table I have two pound signs next to Illinois and that's because that's my geog- the geography that I selected and then you can see one pound sign and that's to indicate an estimate - to indicate a geography where an estimate is not statistically different from the selected estimate.

And so here I can tell that Massachusetts, at 28 minutes, is not statistically different from Illinois at 28.2 minutes. But I can say that Illinois, in terms of states, ranks fifth in the mean travel time to work at 28.2 minutes with a margin of error of .2.

Now we're going to move on and let's say you're interested - you know, you found Illinois and now you're interested in - and this is for geography. Let's say the county's in Illinois. So now you can take a look at the geographic comparison table.

And so this allows you to compare areas other than states that may be of interest. And so here I have GCT0801, the same long title, mean travel time to work of workers 16 and over who do not travel - who do not work at home in minutes.

And then I have Illinois, and the country DCR, the ones that are available for the one year release, so it's not all counties in Illinois, but those with a population of 65,000 or more. And you can see again, the minutes, the mean travel time in minutes, along with the margin of error.

So switching gears from American Fact Finder, I want to show you one of our newer Web based applications called My Congressional District. The URL is at the bottom of the screen, but it's census.gov/mycd. My Congressional District uses the 113th congressional district boundaries and it gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics collected by ACS.

So on the next screen, in step one, I picked a state, and here I did Texas, and then in step two, I selected a congressional district and I picked one. And the default profile that you get is for people and then you can also see there're options to display jobs, housing, economic and education.

And here I also am showing the margin of error and I did that by checking the box at the bottom that says display margin of error. And you can take these

results and download and share them and embed them on your Web site, so it's another way to get to our data and share it with others.

So now I want to talk about some changes to our - to ACS for this year, including some new tables. And so there's not a whole lot of changes this year but we do have a new detailed table that was made in order to publish (activity) information for more geographies in Puerto Rico and in parentheses, I have the table ID.

So if you want to go into Fact Finder later, you can pull up this table yourself. We also have two new detailed tables for health insurance coverage status and private health insurance by sex, by enrollment status, for young adults age 19 to 25.

And, again, those two table IDs are listed. And then we have a new collapse table, C09019, that replaces a table, C09016, and although the lines in the two tables are the same, the sourcing for this new table uses the most up to date relationship categories based on the questionnaire change that happened earlier.

And also if you're familiar with our selected population profile, we talked about that data product a few slides ago, we have a couple of new groups. Two groups are added, the (new pia) tribal grouping alone and their code is in parentheses, and then a (new pia) tribal grouping alone or on combination with any other race group. And then we also have one new ancestry group published and that's Somalian.

We also have a couple of noteworthy data product modifications, subject table S2701 for health insurance. It contains a new line with an estimate of total uninsured for ages 19 to 25.

And then also year of entry and year of naturalization categories have been shifted from 2000 or later to 2010 or later as the highest category and then the other categories below it have also been shifted accordingly.

And for housing tables, year structure built and year household or moved into unit, has been shifted from 2005 or later to 2010 or later. And again, the URL, where you can see more or all of our data products modification is at the bottom of the screen.

So for geography updates, we do have a couple of exciting changes. One is that our data products are now going to be available for the 113th congressional district. We've been getting some phone calls about that and we know people are anxious to see the new districts.

And so they will be available in Fact Finder with this release. And this is also our first release that'll be based, that'll have a (Smith) based 2010 definitions for public use micro data areas or PUMA. If you're familiar with the PUMD files, they're a micro data file and for urban areas and urban rural. And again, the URL at the bottom of the screen shows you all the geography changes that have happened for this year.

So in addition to our tabulated data products, we also have some topic reports that are going to be coming out. And three specifically will be embargoed for the 17th for release on September 19th, and those are poverty 2000 to 2012, household income 2012, and mitigating the loss of private insurance with public coverage for the under 65 population, 2008 to 2012.

So these are short reports that are based on ACS data. They include one or more tables and one or more maps. And this also kind of builds upon the CPS

release that'll happen on the 17th so you can tell the national story with our CPS estimates and then the local story with the American Community Survey. And we'll have more briefs coming out later this fall, so stay tuned.

So comparison guidance, so overall, we recommend that you can compare across geographies and population subgroups using the 2012 ACS. And there hasn't been a lot of changes between 2011 and 2012 for ACS.

So you're generally (safe grounds) making comparisons but we do want to recommend caution when comparing income, earnings and poverty. And statistically that's because the reference periods for ACS overlap.

And so, for example, if you're part of the 2011 ACS and you're responding at the end of the year in December, and we ask you about income in the past 12 months, that would refer to December 2010 to December 2011.

But with only a month later, you're part of the January panel for the 2012 ACS and we ask you about income in the past 12 months, you'd be referring to January 2011 to January 2012. And so even though those are two different surveys, most of the months overlap between them.

You also need to take into account income inflation and adjustment to be in constant dollars when you're comparing different years of the survey for income and earnings.

And we also recommend that you compare a percent, means, median and rates instead of totals whenever possible. Our totals are determined in large part by the methodology ACS uses for (weighting) and controlling estimates to the total population.

And those can move around a little bit depending on the methodology for (waiting) and controls, so you're on safer ground comparing the derived measures, you know, on those percent, means, medians and rates instead of the totals.

And then also don't expect the ACS to necessarily match up with what you're seeing in Decennial Census or estimates from other surveys, for example, CPS. And we're going to talk about that a little bit more.

So as I mentioned earlier, the CPS also has a release coming out and it's the 2012 income poverty and health insurance estimates from the 2013 current population survey annual social and economic supplement. So those are going to be coming out on the 17th, again, not to be confused with the ACS release two days later on September 19th.

And so the estimates from ACS and CPS differ for a number of reasons. But trends over time do tend to be similar across surveys. And the biggest difference is the reference period for the two surveys.

And so, for example, with CPS, asked respondents to report income in the previous calendar year, so this will be 2012 for CPS, where ACS, as I explained earlier, is asking about income in the prior 12 months.

And also when you're looking at health insurance, for CPS, it's asking a person - measures a person - if a person was insured on any day during the previous year, and you're considered uninsured only if, for the entire year, you had no coverage under any type of health insurance.

For the ACS, we ask if a person is currently covered by any of the listed types of health insurance. So we measure the health insurance of the population

based on whether people are insured at the point in time they answered the survey.

So, overall, we don't really recommend using the CPS for your national estimates and then using the ACS for sub-national estimates. We also - we don't recommend comparing CPS and ACS to one another.

So (stick) to comparing, based within ACS and keeping your national estimates to CPS. And if you're interested in learning more, we have a blog that was - two blogs that were posted yesterday on random samplings. The URL is displayed. One is on how we measure health insurance and the other is how the Census Bureau measure income and poverty.

So I want to show you how you can access more information about the American Community Survey from our Web site from our Web site, and that's census.gov/acs. And so at the top we have links. Right now we're on the main page.

And we also have links to about the survey, guidance for data users, data and documentation, methodology and library. And I also want to point out that in the lower right-hand corner, we have data by topics. And those are links that go directly into American Fact Finder.

So, for example, if you clicked on ancestry, it would show you the ancestor tables in Fact Finder, and those will get updated with the 2012 information next week.

So first I want to show you our comparison guidance page, and you get there by clicking on the guidance for data users tab at the top of the page. And then

on the left navigation, click on comparing ACS data and then underneath that, 2012.

And so you can see in the middle of the screen, we have our different subject areas listed. And you get guidance about comparing them back to Census 2000, comparing 2012 ACS and 2011 ACS and then comparing the ACS with the 2010 census.

And we generally give you recommendations on compare, compare with caution or do not compare at all. And the URL is at the bottom of the page. So next I want to point out our data and documentation page and so you can get there by clicking on the data and documentation tab and then on the left-hand side, click on data releases, and then 2012 data release.

And so this is our 2012 data release information. It was updated as of this morning. In the middle of the page, you can see new and notable items pertaining to this data release. We've pretty much covered all of them already.

And then there're also links on the left-hand side, the product changes we talked about earlier, and also release schedule. And again, the URL is at the bottom of the screen. And this will also be updated throughout the fall, so as we get more briefs and as we update - get ready for the three and five year data releases, we'll keep adding more new and notable items.

Next we're going to our documentation page. So we've already gone to data and documentation. And this time, on the left-hand side, you're going to click on documentation. And so here we have links to all the different documentation we provide for each data release.

So, for example, we have code lists that have detailed codes for variables that contain a large number of coded responses such as ancestry or occupation. Subject definitions, where we have definitions of our variables, so if you wonder, what really counts as income or what exactly is a room, this is a really great resource and we point people to it all the time.

We also have definitions for group quarters, and then it got cut off of the screen, but we also have instructions for applying statistical testing and these are basic instructions for obtaining ACS standard errors needed to do statistical testing.

And then next week, with the data release on the 19th, we'll have the comparison guidance and accuracy of the data items uploaded to. And also on the left-hand side, we have links to our user notes and to our (rata) notes. And, again, URL is at the bottom of the screen.

All right, upcoming Webinars. You're here. You must like Webinars and you must like the ACS. So we have more coming up. The first one is a PUMDs overview, so again, this is the micro data that you can use to create your own tables of interest. It's on Thursday, October 17th, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

I'm going to skip over the five year Webinar for now. We also have a summary file overview. The summary file is where you can access the block group level data which is the smallest level of geography for the ACS. And we're going to show you how you can get to that using our retrieval tool or using our FTP site.

And then we'll also have a Webinar in January working with the 2000 and 2010 (pula boundaries), and so we mentioned earlier in the presentation how we're going to start using new boundaries based on 2010 census.

And that'll be January 14th, and you can see the URL at the bottom of the screen. You can go there and find out more about accessing the Webinar. And then also the five year Webinar. The date hasn't been determined yet but it'll be a similar format to this one and that'll be coming up soon too.

Then also if our voice isn't enough and you want to meet us in person, the (ACS) will be on the road soon. Next week, we'll be at the Association of Public Data Users conference here in Washington, DC and our division chief, (Jim Treet) will be speaking about the ACS and new developments in innovative applications.

We'll be at Independent Sectors, which is a leadership network for non-profit foundations and corporate giving programs and we'll have an exhibit there in New York at the end of September.

We'll have an exhibit at the National Congress of American Indians in October in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We'll have a panel and an exhibit at the Community Indicators Consortium Impact Summit in Chicago in mid-October.

My colleague, (Tim Gilbert), will be doing a presentation at the Southern Demographic Association in Montgomery, Alabama at the end of October. And we also have a colleague who will be at the Applied Geography conference at the end of October nearby in (Annapolis).

And then we also have a new data user group. This was formed in partnership with the Population Reference Bureau in (Saber) systems. And the purpose of our data user group is to improve understanding of the value and utility of the American Community Survey Data and to provide information sharing among data users about key ACS data issues and applications.

Membership is free and it's open to all interested data users and it includes all of you on the phone. We have some Webinars and special sessions and professional meetings planned. There was a Webinar a few months ago about data for small geographic areas and population subgroups in July.

And they have a couple coming up. One is the tutorial on using their online community. And other is using the ACS to look at trends over time. They'll also be at professional meetings, two I just mentioned, were (Afd) and the Southern Demographic Association. And they're going to have a conference next spring in Washington, DC.

The user group Web site and online community are going to be launched soon. They're not quite ready yet. And we talk about our email updates here in the next slide, so if you're interested in learning more about the ACS including an update for when the data user group is live, you can go to our Web site, census.gov/acs, and in that lower right-hand corner, contact and get help and then there's a link to get email updates where you can sign up.

(Michael Cook): And that concludes the presentation. Thanks for that, Gretchen. Operator, we're now ready for questions.

Coordinator: Thank you. If you would like to ask a question, please press star then 1. Please record your name clearly when prompted. To withdraw your request, press star then 2. Once again, to ask a question, please press star 1. One moment.

(Michael Cook): Also, just to remind the callers and people that are waiting in the queue, we will be taking questions from media first and then from the public. And while people are readying themselves in the queue, just wanted to reiterate that the embargo for these data sets, statistics that will be released on Thursday,

September 19th at 12:01 am, will be embargoed starting on Tuesday, September 17th, so the embargo period is Tuesday, September 17th from 2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, Daylight Time, rather, until Thursday, September 19th at 12:01 am Eastern Daylight Standard Time. Operator, do we have any questions?

Coordinator: Yes sir. Your first question is from Paul Parker with Providence Journal.

(Michael Cook): Hi Paul.

Paul Parker: Hi. How are you today?

(Michael Cook): Doing just well.

Paul Parker: I actually have two that I hope will be quick. One, the first would be how will same sex married couples be represented in this data? And the second, in reporting stories, it's a lot easier to talk about calendar years than previous 12 months and on a state level, why - if you could explain further, the cautions between using CPS and ACS for poverty data.

(Michael Cook): Let's take a look at the cautions for - in looking at CPS and ACS. I know that Gretchen touched on it a little bit in her presentation. But I want to point out as well, for those of you who are on the call, within the newsroom at census.gov, we do have a news conference area where we have loaded an electronic press kit for the American Community Survey 2012 release.

And within that release, at the very bottom of the page, there're some fact sheets that are listed. These fact sheets go into great detail in talking about comparing CPS to ACS. Gretchen also mentioned the blogs that we released today.

And then, in addition to that, you will have, at the end of this presentation, this presentation will be loaded into an electronic press kit. And Paul, for your question about same sex being displayed, in the data sets, I'm looking - we're getting that answer for you right now. If we can't grab that real quick, we will make sure - and we have that answer right now. One second, Paul. Sorry for the delay.

Paul Parker: No problem.

(Michelle Giles): Yes, hi. This is (Michelle Giles). I work for one of the divisions that works on ACS, and currently same sex couples are listed as unmarried partners. We are currently doing some research over the next few years about potentially other wording to the question and categorizing differently, but as of now, they are listed as unmarried partners.

(Michael Cook): Did that answer your question, Paul?

Paul Parker: Yes, it does. Thank you.

(Michael Cook): Okay. And operator.

Gretchen Gooding: The other question was about CPS and ACS, about cautions with poverty data.

Coordinator: Sir, I have your next questioner as Charles Lane with WSHU.

Charles Lane: Hi guys. Thanks for the opportunity. Will the embargoed data be available through American Fact Finder or just the FTP data tables?

(Michael Cook): The embargoed information will be available on our Web site through the embargo site itself. So the information that's listed on the screen now, that URL, you'll need to navigate there if you haven't already and sign up for embargo access so that you can have early access to that information.

If any of the data tables are within the construct of AFF, it'll be an embargoed side of the AFF data access tool. But, in fact, you will have to have access through our embargo site to get to it.

Charles Lane: Understood but I'm just wondering if normal reporters can go on it or we need to put things through a database. In other words, can they just navigate via the Web site and figure out the information that they need or do they need SMA to create a database for that, to the data tables?

(Michael Cook): No, you can go through the Web site and pull out the data that you need.

Charles Lane: Okay, okay. Fantastic.

(Michael Cook): And make sure that, if you haven't already again, go ahead and sign up for the embargo access now.

Charles Lane: Okay, I'm pretty sure we are.

(Michael Cook): Thank you.

Charles Lane: Thank you.

Coordinator: Your next question is from (David Douglas) with Al Jazeera America.

(Michael Cook): Hi, (David).

(David Douglas): Hi. This is a purely technical question. I was curious to know, will there be an embargoed data package at the CPS data release? And if not, can you at least direct us, or is someone able to tell us exactly where to find last year's data set so I can get an idea of what I'm going to get on Tuesday?

(Michael Cook): The CPS data that you're referencing is our income and poverty and health insurance release. That will be released next Tuesday without embargo. So there will not be an embargo for that CPS data. And as I mentioned earlier, the quickest way to get to some of our data sets - or not data sets, but news conferences or past news conferences is go ahead and navigate the census.gov and go to the newsroom.

And in the newsroom, go to news conferences and in your news conference review, go ahead and navigate to actually a year last September, September 12, 2012, and you'll be able to see the listing for last year's income and poverty health insurance news conference. And in that, you'll see - I'm sending you there because you'll see the full depth and breadth of all the things that we release.

(David Douglas): Fantastic. Thank you. Yes, I haven't done anything with the set before and I'm like to familiarize, so appreciate it.

(Michael Cook): And then also for this year's income and poverty health insurance, we already have an electronic press kit set up for this year's release as well, so you can see some from there as well.

(David Douglas): And how do we obtain this year's electronic press kits then?

(Michael Cook): It's in the same news conference, in the newsroom. So if you navigate the newsroom and click on news conferences, it'll be the actual, the first thing at the top of the list.

(David Douglas): Got it. Thank you so much.

(Michael Cook): All right.

Coordinator: Once again, if you're with the media and would like to ask a question, please press star 1 and record your name. (David Shinegold) with (Bergan) Record. You may ask your question.

(Michael Cook): Hi (David).

(David Shinegold): Hi. How're you doing? What's your advice on state level income and poverty stuff coming out? Obviously it's going to be used for stories the next day and then we're going to get another set of data on median household income and poverty rates that we'll write about on Thursday. What's your best advice on how to avoid the confusion of the two different sets of numbers at the state level?

Gretchen Gooding: So we generally recommend using the current population survey for your national story and then when you want to get below the nation to states or local geography, we would recommend using the ACS.

(David Shinegold): So I guess it'll be our choice and obviously a lot of media is going to be reporting on state level data, so if we report it, we'll just have to note that there's going to be a different set of numbers coming out in a couple days.

Gretchen Gooding: Yes.

(Michael Cook): That's correct, (David).

(David Shinegold): Okay. Are there any, other than what differences you cited on the table shows, are there any other differences between '11 and '12 other than the ones that you noted? Are all the other table designation numbers the same?

Gretchen Gooding: Yes, the table numbering for the ACS is consistent year to year and there was a URL on that screen for all of our data product changes and you can go there and see everything that's changed, but we definitely highlighted the major stuff.

(David Shinegold): Okay, and one other thing. On your FTP site, I'm seeing table shows for the individual tables. Do you have one zip file or other file that will have all the table shells in one spreadsheet like you've done in the past? Because I'm looking at it and unless I'm looking at the wrong place, I'm seeing shelves for each individual table but not one that has them all in it. Can you provide that, post that up on the FTP site?

Gretchen Gooding: We'll look into it. If you go to the ACS Web site, census.gov/acs, go to data and documentation...

(David Shinegold): Right. I accessed the tables...

Gretchen Gooding: Sorry - and then go to summary files on the left-hand side - are you there?

(David Shinegold): Yes.

Gretchen Gooding: Okay. So on the summary file on the landing page, you should see a link to the one year table shells.

(David Shinegold): Oh, is see. Got that.

Gretching Gooding: And I think that's one big shell and you might have to delete a few columns but I think that should work for now.

(David Shinegold): I do see that file. Okay, thanks a lot.

(Michael Cook): Thank you (David). Operator, are there any other calls from the media?

Coordinator: No other calls for media.

(Michael Cook): Great. We'll take our first call, then, from the public.

Coordinator: Thank you. (Andrew Reamer) with George Washington University, you may ask your question.

(Michael Cook): Hey (Andy).

(Andrew Reamer): Hi. How are you? Thanks so much for this. I've got several questions relating to data by congressional district. And I'm pleased to see that they will be available for the 113th congressional - congress of the districts for the 113th congress. What years will data by the geography be available on Fact Finder, is question one? I'll just give you the three questions. This question...

Gretchen Gooding: How about - can we do one at a time? I have a short memory.

(Andrew Reamer): Sure.

Gretchen Gooding: All right. So the 113th congressional districts will be available for the 2012 ACS data release that's coming out.

(Andrew Reamer): Okay. And now earlier years?

Gretchen Gooding: No, we're not going back and doing earlier years.

(Andrew Reamer): Okay. On your FTP download site, you have the database - a humungous Excel spreadsheet of the 2011 data by 113th congressional district that was posted last February. And that's, I believe, the source spreadsheet for easy stats because easy stats, you - or even (by) congressional district that you showed us earlier, that - what's up right now is the 2011 data by 113th congressional district.

Gretchen Gooding: Yes.

(Andrew Reamer): Okay. So when will the FTP download be available for 2012? Last year it wasn't up until February. When will it be available this year?

Gretchen Gooding: So I'm looking in the back of the room to a colleague who's shaking her head, so I don't think we're going the FTP download. Hold on. We're getting an answer as we speak.

(Andrew Reamer): Okay.

Gretchen Gooding: Okay, so the reason we're not doing that FTP kind of mega download is that it's all available on American Fact Finder now, so you can get it from there.

(Andrew Reamer): I see. Okay, very good. So, to allow people to do comparisons, would it be possible to take - you do have on the spreadsheet the 2011 data for the 113th congress, but it's not on American Fact Finder. So could you actually move that over to American Fact Finder so people can actually do a year-to-year comparison?

Gretchen Gooding: I'm seeing again more head shaking in the direction of no, so I don't think that's going to happen. I'm sorry.

(Andrew Reamer): Okay. For my congressional district right now, the data is for 2011. It's just the one year. And just by the way, you have to look really closely to see what year it is. You have to look at the bottom. It's not really clear what year the conference is. You might want to make an adjustment on that.

When the 2012 data comes up on my congressional district, will you also be carrying the 2011 data or are you going to just have only one year and drop the - only have the latest year?

Gretchen Gooding: So my congressional district will always have the most recent year, so that'll be 2012 and should be released around September 19th.

(Andrew Reamer): Right, so then the 2011 data will disappear?

Gretchen Gooding: Yes. Yes.

(Michael Cook): Thank you for all your comments and suggestions, (Andy). We appreciate it.

(Andrew Reamer): Sure.

(Michael Cook): Operator, next caller.

Coordinator: Paul Parker, with Providence Journal.

(Michael Cook): Hey, Paul.

Paul Parker: Hey, my CPS versus ACS question, I don't think it really got answered. You know, my two concerns, as one of the other questioners, is one is coming out two days before the other.

And in the news business, that's going to be the one that rules regardless of, you know, data concerns. And also, the CPS as a calendar year versus the squishy 12 previous months and, you know, on the rolling basis throughout the year. So I want to know, what is the danger of using the CPS for a state level story, and especially Rhode Island, being a million population?

(Edward Woniak, Jr.). Well, certainly...

(Michael Cook): Hold on one second. We've got (Edward Woniak, Jr.) from our income branch who's going to be answering that question.

Paul Parker: Thank you.

(Edward Woniak, Jr.): Actually, one of the blogs that we posted today, actually discusses the differences between the ACS and the CPS data looking at one year data, looking at CPS two year average data and comparing it to the ACS data.

And if you look at the one year data that's released from the CPS, you're going to notice how much more volatile it is compared to the ACS. And so because of the sampling variability that's associated with both of the surveys, the ACS having a smaller standard of error or sampling variability, that's why

we're recommending that you use the ACS for state and subnational estimates to try to avoid the volatility in the estimates from one year to the next.

So if you want to write about the CPS data that's released on Tuesday, you certainly can. There will be available, however, just recognize that it may be more volatile than what you're going to see on Thursday from the American Community Survey.

Paul Parker: Great. Thank you very much.

(Michael Cook): Thank you, Paul. Operator.

Coordinator: (Christy Ann Corbett) with AAUW.

(Michael Cook): Hi, (Christy Ann).

(Christy Ann Corbett): Hi. I'm wondering if it's possible for non-profit organizations like AAUW to get access to the ACS data with the embargo on September 17th.

(Michael Cook): The embargo is actually set up for accredited media only.

(Christy Ann Corbett): Okay.

(Michael Cook): That would not be available for you.

(Christy Ann Corbett): Okay, and I have a second question which is about the ACS provides more data for more racial and ethnic groups than the CPS does, income level broken out by race and ethnicity as well as sex, and I'm - your - I know you're recommending that we use the ACS data for the subnational

groups, but is there any issue with using the ACS data for the national - at the national level for racial and ethnic groups broken out by gender?

Gretchen Gooding: Hold on. We're thinking about that one for a second.

(Edward Woniak, Jr.): Yes, certainly...

(Michael Cook): This is (Ed Woniak) again.

(Edward Woniak, Jr.): You can use either survey for your larger groups but if you want to look at individual Indian tribes or if you wanted to look at the subpopulations for the Asians or Pacific Islanders, then you're not going to have that available from the current population survey, so you really should use the American Community Survey for those types of comparisons.

(Christy Ann Corbett): Okay, thank you.

(Michael Cook): Thank you (Christina). Operator, next caller.

Coordinator: John McCormick with Bloomberg News.

(Michael Cook): Hi, John.

John McCormick: Hello. Thank you. Hey, it's been a while since I worked with ACS data extensively. Refresh my memory, earlier on in the presentation, there was a mention that the three year and the five year data is coming out later in the fall. If ACS has been released annually now for some period of time, why can't you sort of roll your own with previous year estimates?

Gretchen Gooding: What do you mean by roll your own?

John McCormick: Well, in other words, if I want to compare something from 2012 to 2010 or 2009, those annual estimates that have been previously released, what do I get in the fall in the three year and the five year that I don't have already?

Gretchen Gooding: So for the three year release, you're getting areas of 20,000 or more, so you're getting smaller geographies. And in the five year release, you're getting down to our smallest geographic areas, tracks and block groups, so you're getting more availability with geography.

John McCormick: Okay, whereas in those previous - in previous releases, they may not have been to that level of detail for those geography levels.

Gretchen Gooding: So the one year release is, no matter, you know, if it's 2012 or 2010, it's always for areas of 65,000 or more, and the three and five year releases have always just been, you know, 20,000 or more down to the track and block group level. It's just that as we release it each year, you're getting the most current information.

John McCormick: Okay. Thank you.

(Michael Cook): You're very welcome. Next caller operator.

Coordinator: (Tara Mancini) with Georgetown University.

(Michael Cook): Hello.

(Tara Mancini): Hi. I have a question about the new tables on health insurance coverage and - private health insurance coverage that you mentioned, B27022, and B27023, I - so this is the first year the data is available but if I recall correctly, last year

you had - you released a brief on a similar topic. And I'm wondering if that data will be comparable with what you released in the brief last year.

Gretchen Gooding: I'm not sure what the brief was specifically about health insurance last year. I think the title this year is a little bit different so the brief from last year to this year, probably not directly comparable.

(Tara Mancini): Right, not the brief but the data and the tables. If I'm remembering correctly, I think you provided state data in your briefs on health insurance coverage for 19 to 25 year olds. So that's why I was wondering if that data was summary data or is that, like, the public use that you used for that brief? I mean, I could pull up the brief and I guess check but I was just wondering if you knew offhand.

Gretchen Gooding: So it sounds like you're asking if they pulled data that was straight from American Fact Finder or if they did, like, a special data run to make the briefs.

(Tara Mancini): Yes.

Gretchen Gooding: I'm not sure off the top of my head. That would be a good question to call us up with and we can put you in contact with the subject matter area.

(Tara Mancini): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: (Matthew Sinecroshi) with Connecticut Voices for Children.

(Michael Cook): Hi.

(Matthew Sinecroshi):Hi. How's it going? I have a somewhat similar question related to...

(Michael Cook): Hello, (Matthew)?

(Matthew Sinecroshi):Hello?

(Michael Cook): Yes, we missed that question.

(Matthew Sinecroshi):Okay, sorry about that. It's related to the new focus on health insurance coverage for young adults. And I guess I just wanted to check and I think I have the answer to this question, but I just wanted to clarify. That's not going to be comparable to the estimate, the state level estimates that were produced in last year's B27001 that looked at 18 to 24? Is that - I - apart from the age difference, like the different age range, is it a different question or can you just kind of talk me through that?

Gretchen Gooding: So the health insurance question hasn't changed from last year to this year and the table you referenced, the B27001, that should be available again this year so you could look at both years.

(Matthew Sinecroshi):Okay, okay. Great. Thank you.

Gretchen Gooding: (Yes).

Coordinator: (David Britten) with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

(Michael Cook): Hi, (David).

(David Britten): Hello. Good afternoon. Two quick questions. I believe it was stated earlier that today's presentation or Power Point will be available in the newsroom. Is that correct?

(Michael Cook): That is correct. We have an electronic press kit for this 2012 ACS American Community Survey release.

(David Britten): Okay.

(Michael Cook): The presentation, the Webinar itself, will be recorded and placed there in addition to the slides from the presentation.

(David Britten): Great. The other question I have is I'm fairly new to your Web site. Is there a tutorial on there as to help me navigate and find the different information that I may need with regard to the data that we may be looking for?

Gretchen Gooding: So you're talking about American Fact Finder?

(David Britten): Correct.

Gretchen Gooding: Yes, Fact Finder has changed a lot in the last couple years so I'm not sure - there are tutorials? Okay, I was going to say I wasn't sure if we had a tutorial that was most up to date but they said we do.

(Michael Cook): Yes, (David), if you navigate to our homepage.

(David Britten): Okay.

(Michael Cook): Simply click on, at the top of the homepage, there's a bread crumb called data. Click on that and then go to American Fact Finder.

(David Britten): Okay.

(Michael Cook): Once you get to American Fact Finder on the right-hand side, right-hand corner, you'll see a button. I believe it says help. And under there you'll see the tutorials that you can walk yourself through. And those are some modules that go through and they progressively get harder so they start off with the basic data search and then progress to the advanced searches.

So you can go through those. And then also if you do have any follow up questions after the call, and I'll mention it now, anyone from the media can contact the Public Information Office at 301-763-3030. And you can call, (David), our customer service center, whose number is 1-800-923-8282.

Gretchen Gooding: And the presentation I did, where I navigated through Fact Finder, if you are looking for ACS data, that is, you know, a pretty direct way of getting there too.

(David Britten): Great. Thank you very much. That answers my question.

Coordinator: Once again, if you have a question, please press star then 1 and record your name. (David Steingold) with (Bergan) Records, you may ask your question.

(David Steingold):Hi folks. One other question on the CPS versus ACS, what do we say in our stories if we do something on the state level poverty rates, which we'll probably do, what do we say about why the Bureau releases one set of numbers and then another set? Why do you do that? What do we say in the story about why you release the CPS and then the ACS with different sets of numbers?

Gretchen Gooding: So (Ed) is back again to answer that question.

(David Steingold):Okay.

(Edward Woniak, Jr.): Well, it's - the current population survey's annual social and economic supplement is defined as the official source of the poverty estimates, so we're required to do those.

We have been putting out state data from the CPS as a courtesy or as a tool for our users until the American Community Survey started producing annual estimates and then we just, you know, are telling you that the best source of subnational data is the American Community Survey.

So the - I don't really think there's going to be, you know, that big of a shortcoming other than just pay attention to the standard error and the variances that are associated with the state data that's released from the CPS and you can't go wrong. But just also notice that those variances are going to be much larger than you're going to see in the American Community Survey.

(David Steingold): The CPS is released as the national poverty rate and that's why that's released.

(Edward Woniak, Jr.): That's correct. It's the official source of the poverty estimates for the nation.

(David Steingold): Got it. Okay, thanks.

(Michael Cook): Thank you for that.

Coordinator: Our last question comes from (Sarah Barren) with the Center for American Progress.

(Michael Cook): Hi, (Sarah).

(Sarah Barren): Yes - hi. I'm just wondering if come the morning of the 19th and we're looking to the data and having trouble navigating through something or understanding something or finding something, what is the best way to get in contact with someone?

(Michael Cook): If you take a look at the screen, under general public, we have our contact information, phone number for our customer service center.

(Sarah Barren): Oh, and it's right up there. Thank you so much.

(Michael Cook): You're welcome. Operator?

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

(Michael Cook): Just to recap before we bring it to a close, that the embargo will begin next Tuesday, September 17th at 2:00 pm and then the embargo will be a released or listed for the public release on Thursday, September 19th at 12:01 am.

And I'd like to remind those media who are on the call or on the line, if you want to have access to - early access to the information through the embargo process, you can navigate to the newsroom and that URL is listed there.

Operator, do we have any other callers?

Coordinator: Sir, at this time I have no questions.

(Michael Cook): Very well. I'd like to thank Gretchen Gooding, for making herself available for the public and the media today because I know it's very important to give you the opportunity to ask your questions so that you can make informed decisions as the Census Bureau continues to measure people, places and our

economy. I'd like to thank everybody for coming today and this ends our
Webinar.

Gretchen Gooding: Thank you.

END