

# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY UPDATE

California State Data Center Annual Meeting

September 11, 2014

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Los Angeles Region

# Agenda

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- American Community Survey Update
- Content Review
- Next Steps

# The American Community Survey

- Ongoing household survey that goes to about 2.5% of addresses annually
- Produces credible, cost-efficient statistics for decision-making at all levels of government and industry
- Part of the Decennial Census – per James Madison, collecting vital statistics about the nation since 1790.
- **Completed by mail, online access or interview follow up**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

## THE American Community Survey

This booklet shows the content of the American Community Survey questionnaire.

Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible after receiving it in the mail.

This form asks for information about the people who are living or staying at the address on the mailing label and about the house, apartment, or mobile home located at the address on the mailing label.

**Start Here**

➔ Please print today's date.  
Month Day Year

➔ Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form. We may contact you if there is a question.  
Last Name  
First Name M  
Area Code + Number

➔ How many people are living or staying at this address?  
• **INCLUDE** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.  
• **INCLUDE** anyone else staying here who does not have another place to stay, even if they are here for 2 months or less.  
• **DO NOT INCLUDE** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away or someone in the Armed Forces on deployment.  
Number of people

➔ Fill out pages 2, 3, and 4 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address for more than 2 months. Then complete the rest of the form.

If you need help or have questions about completing this form, please call 1-800-354-7271. The telephone call is free.

**Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD):**  
Call 1-800-582-8299. The telephone call is free.


**¿NECESITA AYUDA?** Si usted habla español y necesita ayuda para completar su cuestionario, llame en cargo alguno al 1-877-633-5625. Usted también puede pedir un cuestionario en español o completar su entrevista por teléfono con un entrevistador que habla español.

For more information about the American Community Survey, visit our web site at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

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FORM ACS-1(Info)(2011)KFI  
9/10/10

CMS No. 0807-0810



# Upcoming Data Releases American Community Survey

Data Product	Planned Release Date	Population Size of Area
2013 ACS 1-Year Estimates	September 18 , 2014	65,000 +
2011-2013 ACS 3-Year Estimates	October 23, 2014	20,000 +
2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates	December 4, 2014	All Geographies

❖ **The American Community Survey is the only source of local statistics for most of the 40 topics it covers — such as education, occupation, language, ancestry and housing costs — for even the smallest communities.**

# New for 2013 Release

- 2013 is the first year estimates for computer and Internet subscription are available
- The 2013 ACS data release marks the first time estimates for new Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are available. These boundary changes use the Feb 2013 CBSA definitions

## Planned Release

September 18, 2014

## Data Products<sup>1</sup>

1-Year (2013) Data Release on American FactFinder:

- Data Profiles
- Comparison Profiles
- Selected Population Profiles
- Ranking Tables
- Subject Tables
- Detailed Tables
- Geographic Comparison Tables

## Lowest Level Geography<sup>2</sup>

Places, County Subdivisions (where available)<sup>3</sup>

Geographies of 65,000+ population

Exception: Ranking Tables – the lowest level is States

October 23, 2014

1-Year Summary File

3-Year (2011-2013) Data Release on American FactFinder:

- Data Profiles
- Comparison Profiles
- Selected Population Profiles
- Subject Tables
- Detailed Tables

Places, County Subdivisions (where available)<sup>3</sup>

Geographies of 20,000+ population

December 4, 2014

5-Year (2009-2013) Data Release on American FactFinder:

- Data Profiles
- Subject Tables
- Detailed Tables
- Geographic Comparison Tables

5-Year Summary File

5-Year Narrative Profiles (on ACS website, not American FactFinder)

3-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File

Census Block Groups

Exceptions: Geographic Comparison Tables - the lowest level is Places/County Subdivisions

Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)

# Content Review

# Information Gathering

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- Field Representative Survey: May 2014 – Complete
  - 1,063 responses from six Regional Offices and three Contact Centers (representing 96.6% response rate from 1,125 interviewers in sample)
  - 6 questions concerning perceived intrusiveness/burden/sensitivity for each item on the ACS questionnaire
  - 3 most “problematic” ACS questions based on preliminary score and number of mentions are:
    - Income – Wages
    - Type of Internet Access
    - Property value
- Data User Feedback Form: June-July – Completed
  - Received 932 responses, representing 3,405 total mentions of high-value or frequently-used questions
  - Most important or most frequently used ACS questions:
    - How did this person usually get to work last week? (457)
    - What is the highest degree or level of school this person has completed? (283)
    - What was this person's total income during the past 12 months? (247)



# Information Gathering

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- Advisory Committee Input: May-July – Underway
  - Working Group kickoff held with Census Bureau 5/8
  - Weekly working group meetings to review questions for value/burden to stakeholder communities and to document example uses
  - Working Group developed a report of their recommendations
  - Working Group presented their results to the full NAC Committee via a webinar on 8/6/14
  - Findings: While perceived intrusiveness and burden were considered, nearly all questions were found to be of benefit to small population groups and for small geographic areas

# Information Gathering

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- Federal Agencies Input: April-July – Underway
  - Participation from 23 agencies representing over 300 uses
  - Majority of agencies reporting same number or more uses over the OMB 2012 process
  - Commerce OGC has made a strong commitment to this project and is heavily engaged in legal reviews of all the input to provide the legal opinion on the statutory basis for cited uses

# Analysis

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- Analytic approach is determined
- Methodology Documentation is underway
  - Decision memo on Business Rules – 1<sup>st</sup> Draft (June)
  - Decision memo on Selection Criteria – 1<sup>st</sup> Draft (July)
  - Full Methodological Description with appendices for each data input stream – 1<sup>st</sup> Draft (July)
- To mitigate potential bias, criteria pre-specified prior to review of data inputs

# Next Steps

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- Develop recommendations from analysis – August
- Report out findings – August - December
- Federal Register notice (60 day comment period) October - December
- Vet responses received through Federal Register notice – December
- Make decisions that inform the OMB package – December – January
- Submit OMB package in early Spring 2015

# Content Review - Milestones

## Milestones - ACS Content Review

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- Launched Content Review public website
- Finalized decision criteria
- Transmitted Agency letters
- Completed all Agency plenary session
- Began legal review of Federal Agency citations
- Began information gathering with stakeholders
- Conduct analysis and provide initial findings
- Develop and vet recommendations
- Reach final decision on recommendations
- Receive NAC Working Group preliminary report
- Complete legal review of Federal Agency citations
- Send Federal Register notice
- Begin implementing recommendations
- Receive approval of OMB clearance package
- Receive NAC Working Group final report
- Complete initial Content Review assessment and adjust process as needed
- Content Review continues

# Questions?

# Los Angeles Region U.S. Census Bureau

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