

Table 1: Use of the ACS by Three Federal Agencies

Program	ACS Variable	Geographic areas	Dataset used	Purpose
Housing Choice Voucher Program	Median family income	Metropolitan areas, parts of metropolitan areas, counties	5-year (primarily) & 1-year	Establish eligibility criteria
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Population living in households with incomes below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Line	States	1-year	Evaluate program performance
Urbanized Area Formula Grant	Population living in households with incomes below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Line	Urbanized Areas	5-year	Allocate funds

Table 2: Choice of Dataset

SNAP Program Access Index calculation

<i>estimate choice for 2013 calculations</i>	<i>reason</i>	<i>type of reason</i>
2012 1-year ACS	1. It is more precise than the CPS. 2. It is available sufficiently before the September 30 deadline for allocation. 3. The data is for the prior year alone.	precision statutory timeliness/ statutory

Urbanized Area Formula Grant program distribution calculation

<i>estimate choice for 2013 calculations</i>	<i>reason</i>	<i>type of reason</i>
2007-2011 5-year ACS	1. It is most precise of the three datasets released in 2013. 2. It is the most recent available at the time of calculation 3. This dataset can be used for allocations under a similar program for nonmetropolitan areas	precision timeliness geographic

Table 2: Choice of Dataset continued

Housing Choice Voucher Program income threshold calculation

<i>estimate choice for 2013 calculations</i>	<i>reason</i>	<i>type of reason</i>
2007-2011 5-year ACS	1. It is most precise of the three datasets released in 2013.	precision
	2. It is the most recent available at the time of calculation	timeliness
	3. It provides estimates for all geographic areas of concern	geographic
2011 1-year ACS	1. Regulations ask for the most recent data	timeliness/ statutory
<i>Alternative choices consistent with the above reasoning</i>		
2009-2011 3-year ACS	1. The use of this data does not alter the outcome of the calculations.	computational

Table 3: Use of the Margin of Error

Program	Use of margin of error in selecting an estimate	Use of margin of error in reporting the data	Use of margin of error in policy activities
Housing Choice Voucher Program	Yes	No	No
SNAP	No	No	No
Urbanized Area Formula Grant program	No	Yes	No