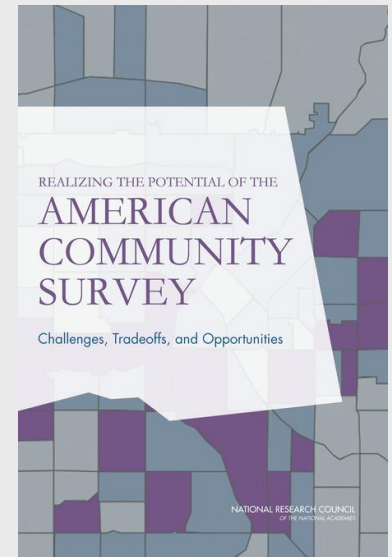


# **ACS: A Look Forward**

## **Data Content, Dissemination & Controls**

**Joseph Salvo**  
**NYC Department of City Planning**

**Member of the NAS Panel on “Addressing  
Priority Technical Issues for the Next  
Decade of the ACS”**



**Presentation at the ACS Data Users' Conference  
May 2015**

# Addressing Priority Technical Issues for the Next Decade: Guiding Principles

1. While the long form provides a framework for comparison, the focus needs to be on **the capacity of the ACS to meet data user needs**.
2. How well the survey is meeting data needs for **small** administrative entities and population groups can only be truly assessed from **the perspective of the broad range of stakeholders** who use the data.
3. **Tradeoffs** will have to be made.

# Key Themes/Conclusions

1. **Current procedures for reviewing and modifying content give too little weight to the needs of non-federal data users**
2. **The Census Bureau should rethink its approach to dissemination of statistics for small areas.**
3. **New paradigms need to be developed to handle data suppression issues**
4. **The use of controls for the ACS needs to be revisited**

# Reviewing and Modifying Content

- Non-federal users as major consumers
- Use by Geographic Level
- Empirical evaluation of data use
- Determine “Optimal Value”

# Key Themes/Conclusions

- 1. Current procedures for reviewing and modifying content give too little weight to the needs of non-federal data users**
- 2. The Census Bureau should rethink its approach to dissemination of statistics for small areas.**
- 3. New paradigms need to be developed to handle data suppression issues**
- 4. The use of controls for the ACS needs to be revisited**

# Small-Area Data Dissemination

- Product evaluation, especially regarding geographic levels**
- Geographic aggregation**
- Microdata Analysis System (MAS)**

# Key Themes/Conclusions

- 1. Current procedures for reviewing and modifying content give too little weight to the needs of non-federal data users**
- 2. The Census Bureau should rethink its approach to dissemination of statistics for small areas.**
- 3. New paradigms need to be developed to handle data suppression issues**
- 4. The use of controls for the ACS needs to be revisited**

# Suppression

- Full access, with a confidentiality review
- Utility of a query system
- Revisiting thresholds



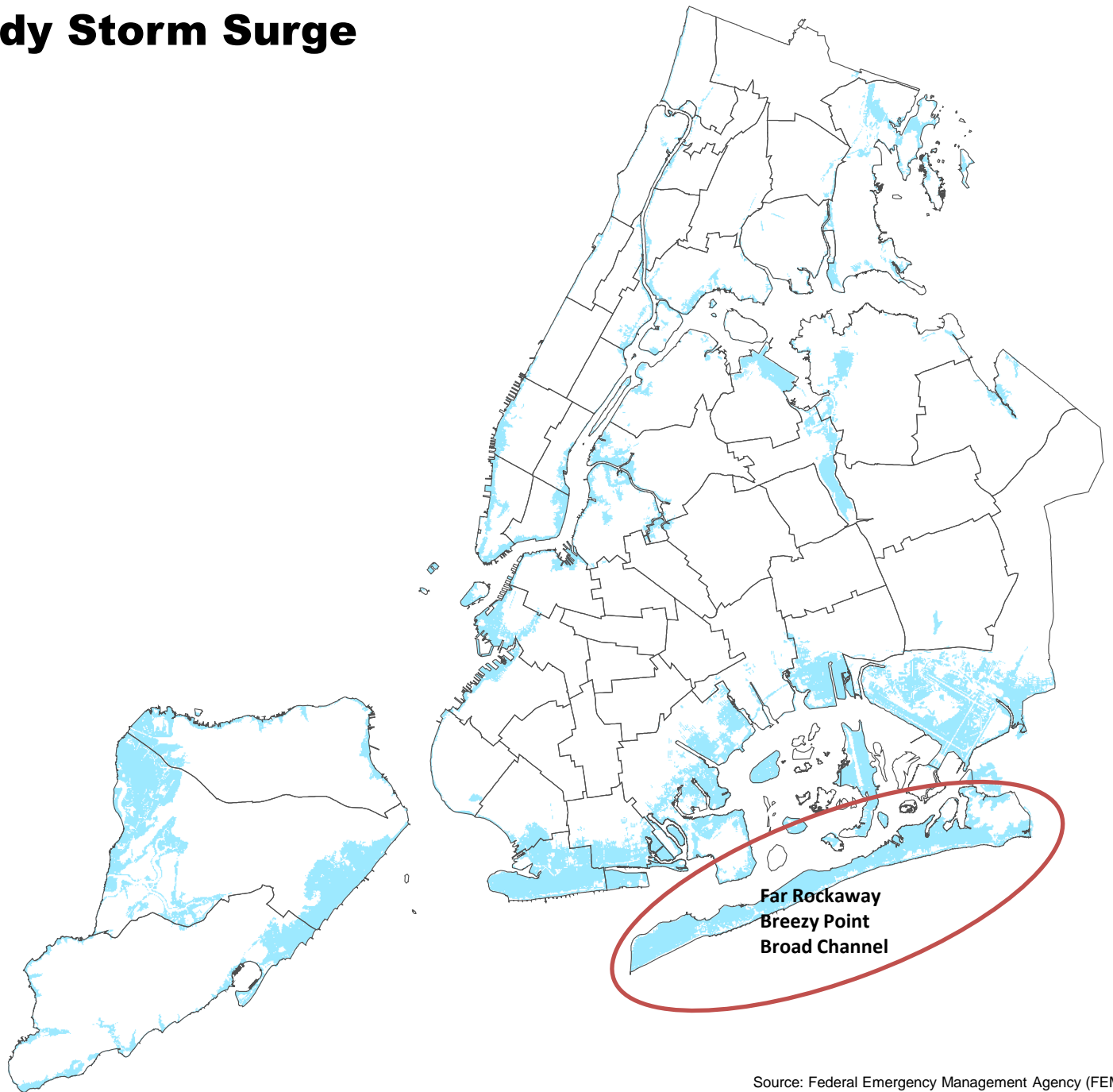
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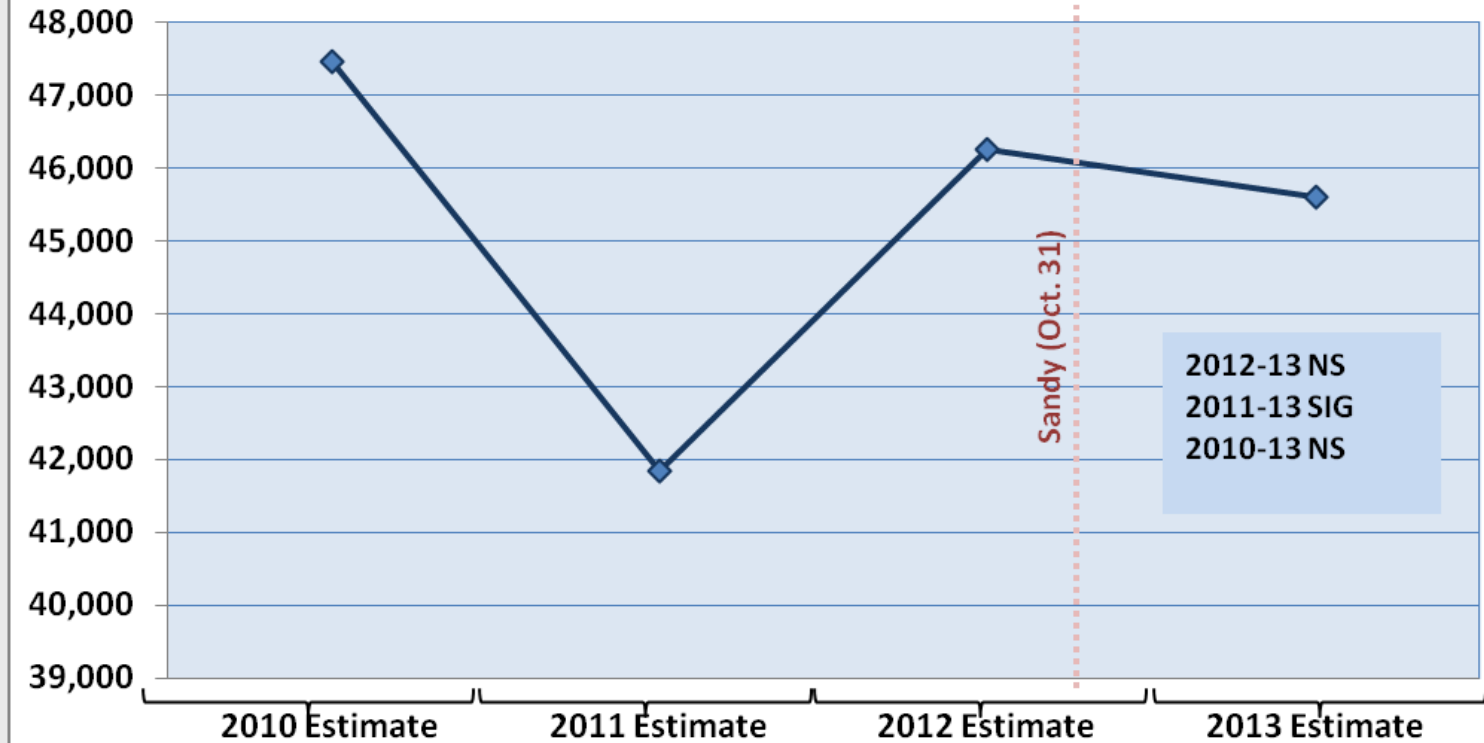
# Controls

- Decennial census link**
- Deficits with current controls**
- New and challenging environment for measuring change over time**

# Hurricane Sandy Storm Surge by PUMA

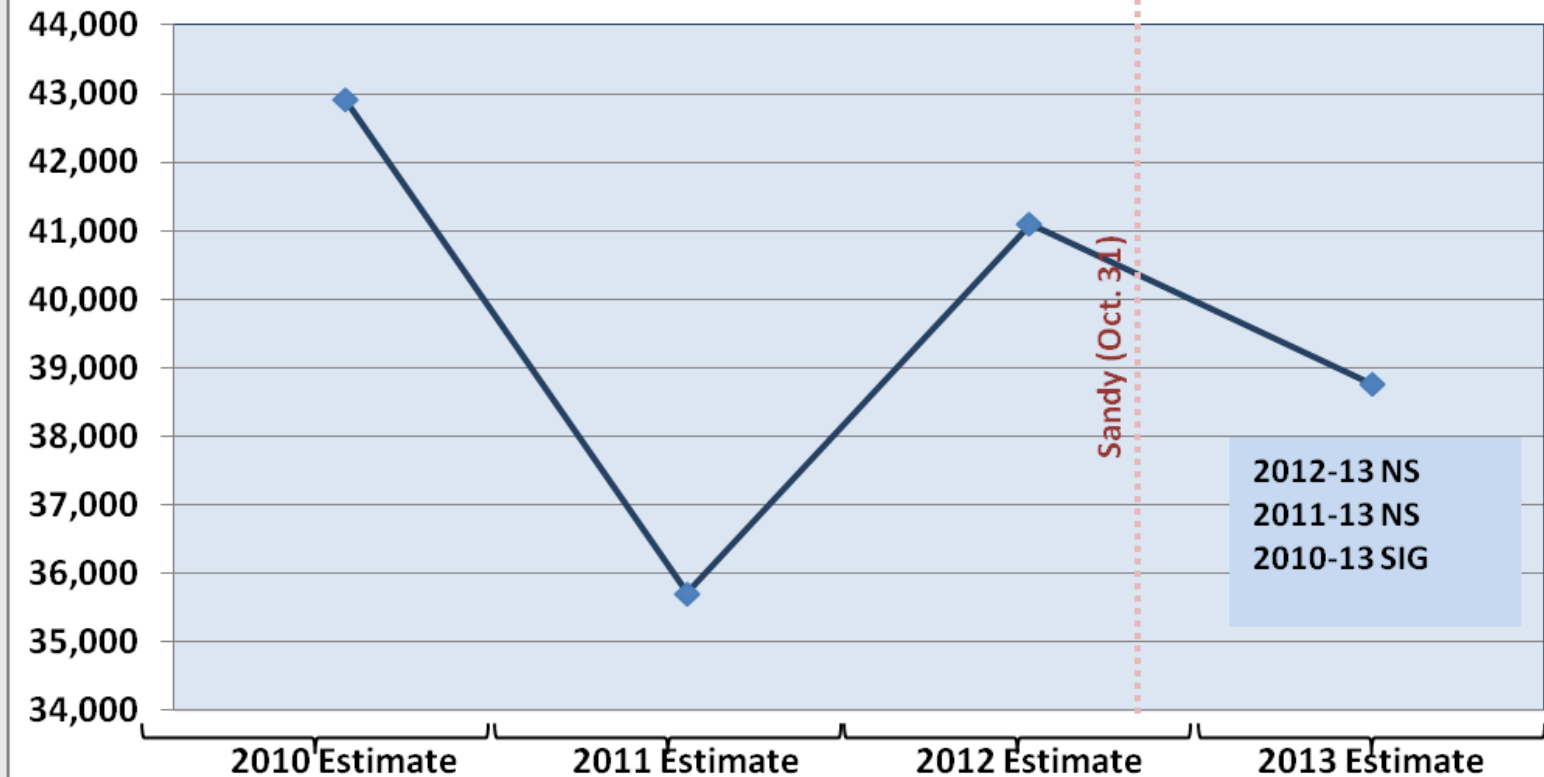


## Total Housing Units Rockaways, Queens PUMA



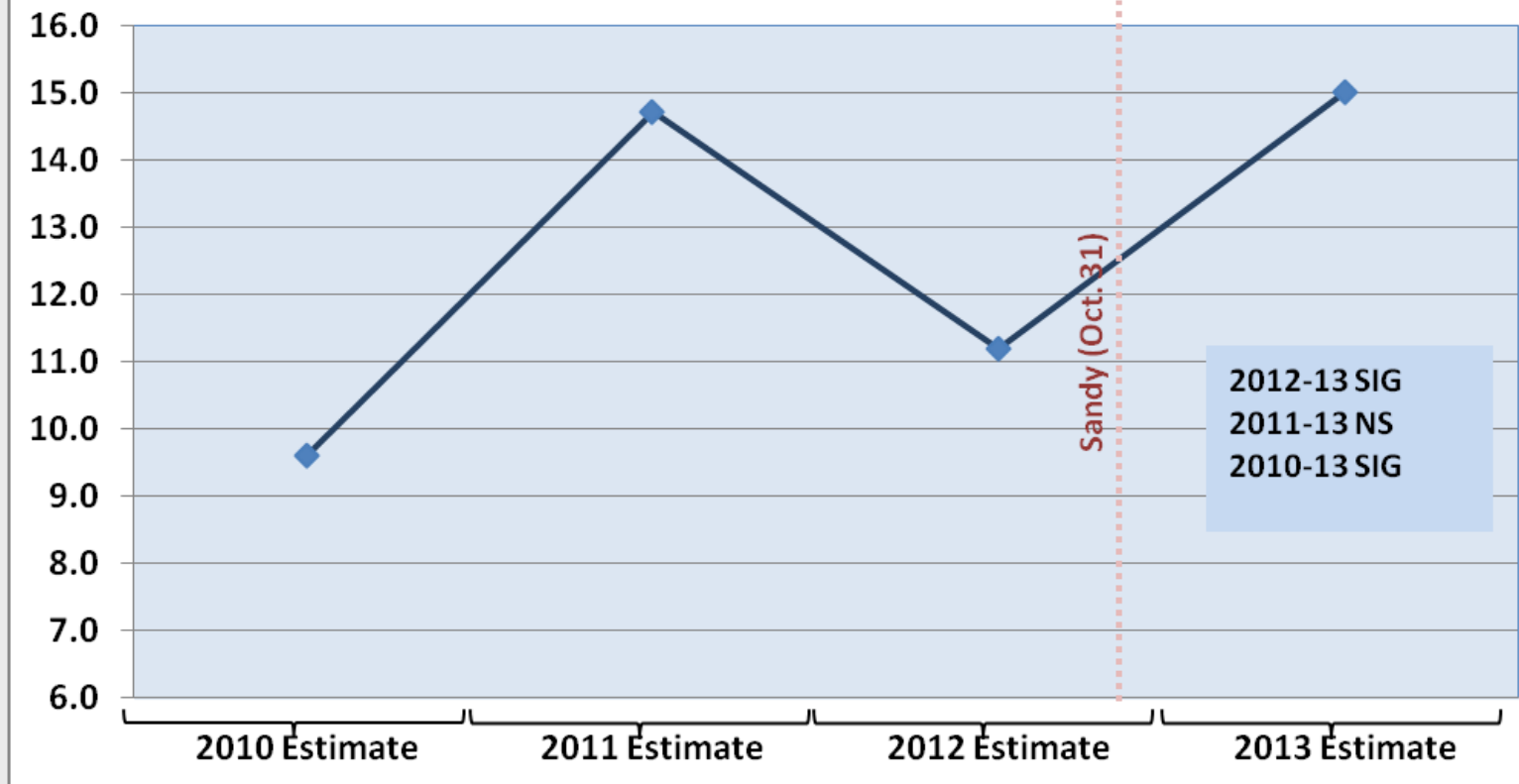
Source: 2010-2013 American Community Survey One-Year Published Estimates

## Occupied Housing Units Rockaways, Queens PUMA



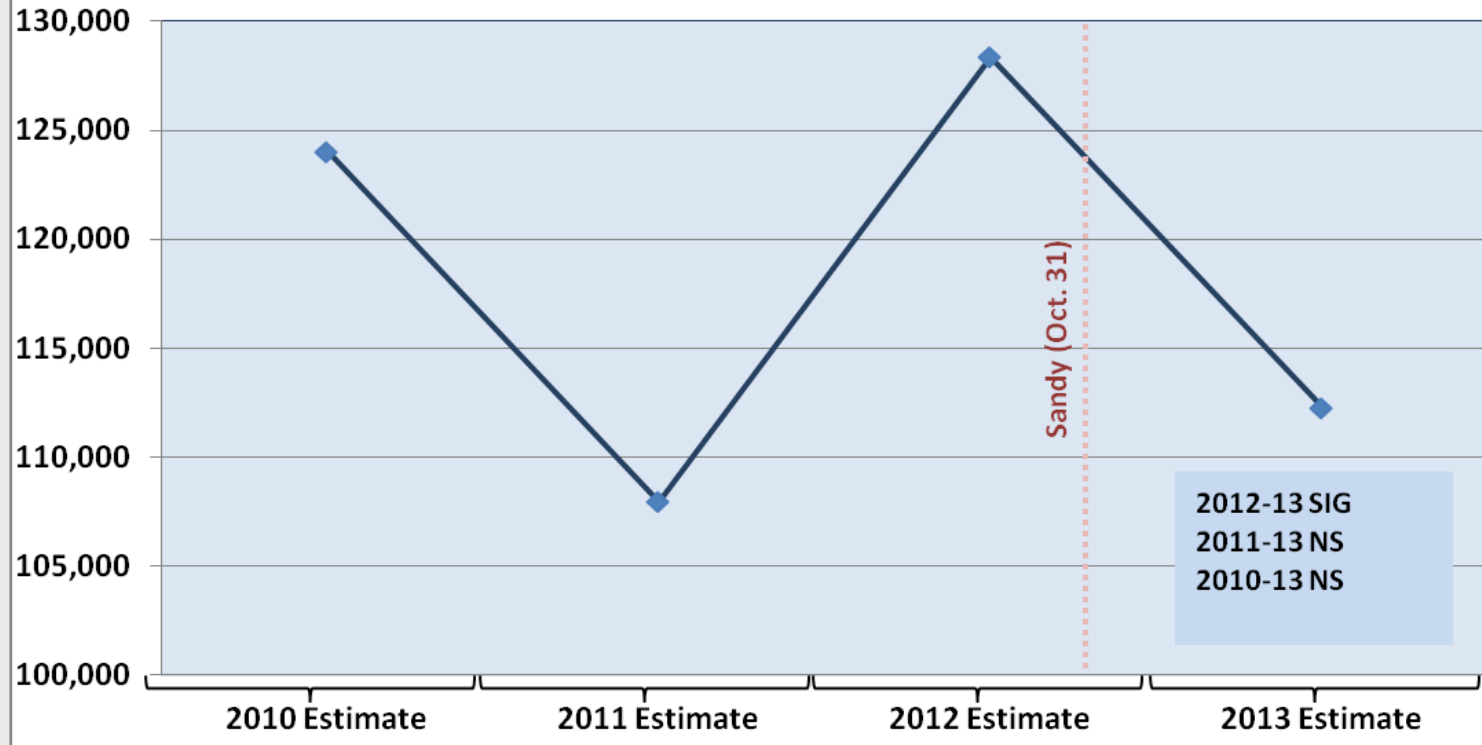
Source: 2010-2013 American Community Survey One-Year Published Estimates

## Percent Vacant Rockaways, Queens PUMA



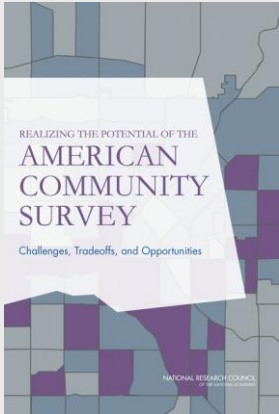
Source: 2010-2013 American Community Survey One-Year Published Estimates

# Total Population Rockaways, Queens PUMA



Source: 2010-2013 American Community Survey One-Year Published Estimates

# More Information



<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DBASSE/CNSTAT/index.htm>

Email: [jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov)