

Proposed Format Change to Simplify the ACS Summary File

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- Quick introduction to the ACS and its Summary File
- Overview of the beta format proposal and feedback
- Live demo of the new format
- Resources and feedback
- Questions

The American Community Survey


The Foundation

The American Community Survey is on the leading edge of survey design, continuous improvement, and data quality

- The nation's most current, reliable, and accessible data source for local statistics on critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income, and employment
- Surveys **3.5 million** addresses and informs over **\$675 billion** of Federal government spending each year
- Covers **40+ topics**, supports over **300** evidence-based Federal government uses, and produces **11 billion** estimates each year
- Three key annual data releases:
 - 1-year Estimates (for large populations)
 - 1-year Supplemental Estimates (for small populations)
 - 5-year Estimates (for very small populations)

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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.

Start Here

Respond online today at:
<https://respond.census.gov/acs>
OR
Complete this form and mail it back as soon as possible.

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 will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

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.

Last Name

First Name MI

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** yourself if you are living 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.

FORM ACS-1 (INFO) (2019)
OMB No. 0607-0810
OMB No. 0607-0936

INFORMATION COPY



The ACS Summary File:

- is a set of comma-delimited text files that contain all of the ACS Detailed Tables
- 3 files: estimates, margins of error, and geography files
- found in the FTP site, accessible through the Summary File Data page

The problem with the current format:

- confusing for data users
- extra work for ACS staff to support two different deliveries

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Overview of the New Format - General

Proposed change:

- ACS Summary File will now be one delivery
- Split by table ID (no longer split by state and sequence number)
- Therefore – 1 file for each table containing estimates, MOEs, for all geographies

Benefits of the change:

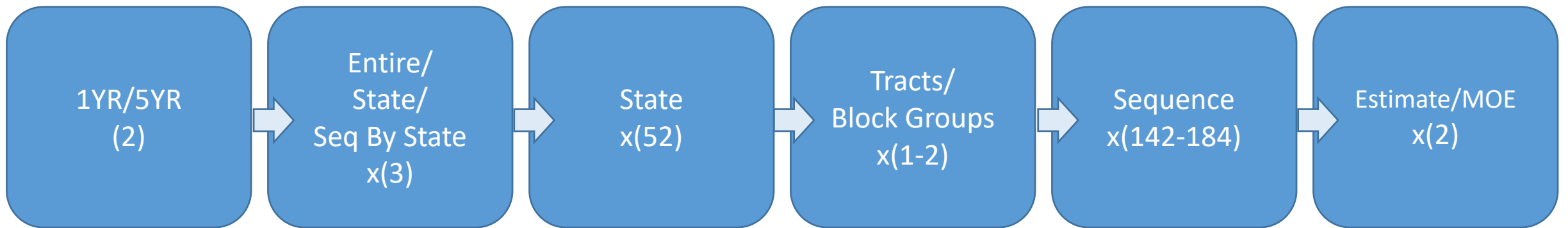
- For Data Users:
 - Estimates and margins of error for each table are combined into one file
 - All geography identifiers and labels combined into one file
 - Simplified documentation
- For Census Bureau:
 - Save time and resources

The new format is a beta version only.

The beta version will be released in parallel with the regular 2019 ACS Summary File production file this December.

There are no changes for the regular 2019 ACS Summary File production file itself planned at this time, and it is not a final decision for the 2020 ACS Summary File.

ACS Produces over 140,000 files for the summary file each year



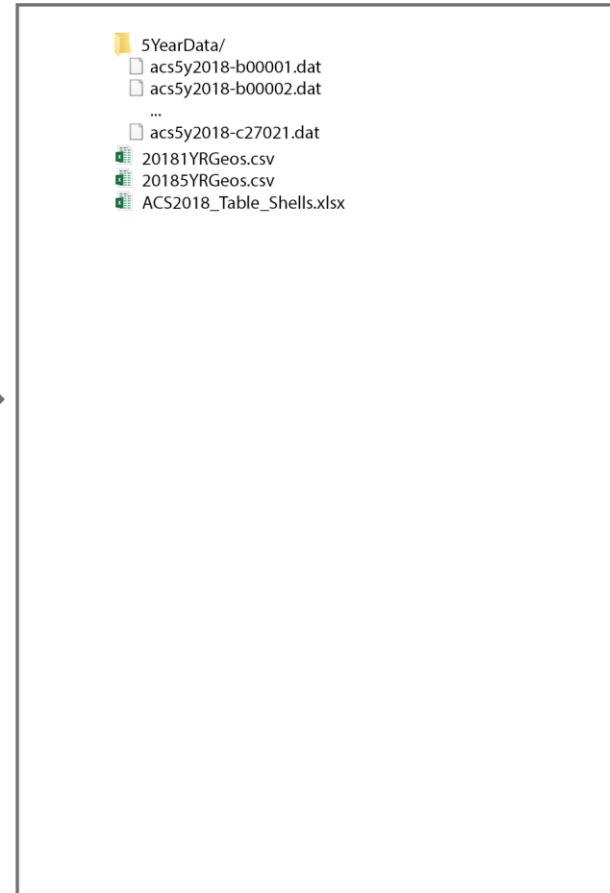
https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/summary_file/2018/data/

The American Community Survey Overview of the New Format - Detailed

Current Summary File



Proposed Summary File



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Live Demo of the New Format

Live Demo of the Test Format

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Resources and Feedback on the New Format

Access all necessary information on the Updates to the ACS Summary File webpage at:

www.census.gov/updates-acs-summary-file

To provide feedback, comment on the “[Proposed changes to the ACS Summary File format](#)” discussion form in the ACS Data Users Group site, or send an email to acso.users.support@census.gov with the subject “**ACS SF Feedback**”.

Feedback due **Friday, November 13, 2020.**

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Data Tell Stories. Tell us Yours!

The screenshot shows the 'Share Your ACS Data Story' form on the American Community Survey website. The form is titled 'Share Your ACS Data Story' and includes the following sections:

- Share Your ACS Data Story**: A section where users can share their story by completing fields. It includes a sub-section 'Your Story *' with a text area and a sub-section 'Outcome *' with a text area. A red asterisk indicates a required field.
- Need help getting started?**: A link to 'featured examples from our current of ACS data stories.'
- Callout Circles**: Three circular callouts are overlaid on the form:
 - The top circle, labeled 'Your story', points to the 'Your Story *' section.
 - The middle circle, labeled 'Your data details', points to the 'Outcome *' section.
 - The bottom circle, labeled 'Your outcome', points to the 'Outcome *' section.

Your story

Your data details

Your outcome

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Continue the Conversation



Sign up for and manage alerts at
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new>



Social media: @uscensusbureau
#ACSdata



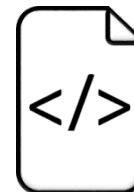
More information online:
census.gov/acs



acso.users.support@census.gov



Census Customer Service Center
800-923-8282



Source Us:
*U.S. Census Bureau's [YYYY – YYYY] American
Community Survey
[1/3/5]-year [estimates/statistics/data release]*

The American Community Survey Questions?

Questions?

Please submit any questions through the webinar's question box.

Feedback goes to: "[Proposed changes to the ACS Summary File format](#)" discussion thread -or- acso.users.support@census.gov with the subject "**ACS SF Feedback**" by Friday, November 13, 2020.

Webpage link:

www.census.gov/updates-acs-summary-file