

American Community Survey Program Updates

ACS Data Users Conference

May 16, 2023

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Outline

- Welcome
- Optimizing ACS Operations
- Ensuring Quality Content
- Protecting Respondent Confidentiality
- Engaging with Data Users

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Optimizing ACS Operations

Reducing Data Collection Costs

- Immediate need to focus on reducing rising field data collection costs
- ACS program is concentrating on short term implementation projects using administrative records and third-party data sources
 - To inform field data collection contact strategy
 - Operational decisions, such as when to decrease or stop field interview efforts

Current Projects

- Prioritizing Contacts by Geographic Area
- Predicting Vacancy Status
- Adapting Contact Efforts in the CAPI Workload

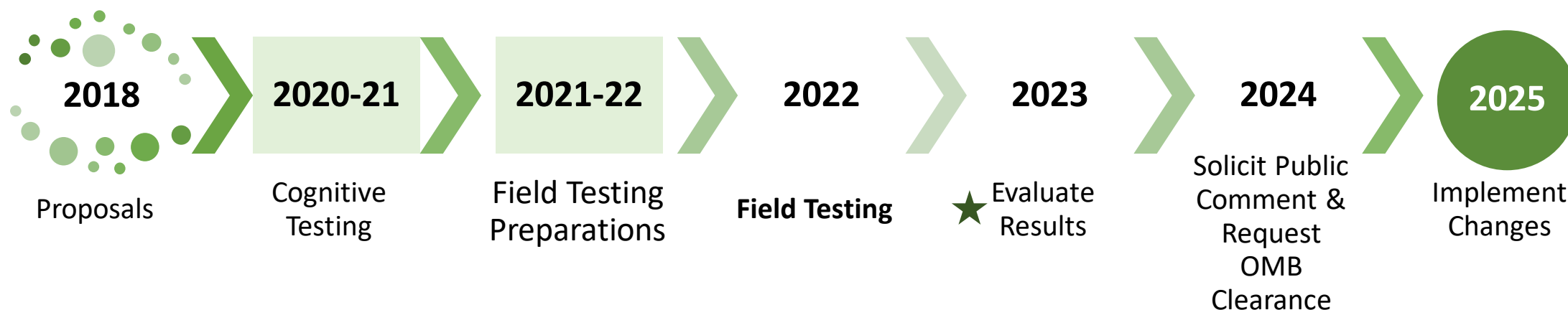
Future Projects

- Using administrative records to reduce respondent burden and improve the quality of ACS data
- Adding an internet self-response option to the group quarters data collection operation

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Ensuring Quality Content—2022 ACS Content Test

This test is conducted approximately every five years to improve quality of existing questions or test the addition of new questions.



Person Level Topics

- Household Roster
- Educational Attainment
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Disability
- Journey to Work*
- Income/Labor Force/SNAP

Housing Topics

- Sewer
 - Electric Vehicles
 - Solar Panels
 - Condo Fees*
 - Home Heating Fuel*
- New Topics

*Not included in the field test

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Ensuring Quality Content — Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Research

The ACS received an FY23 appropriation of \$10 million to research adding questions about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) to the survey

The ACS SOGI test will have two components:

Cognitive Testing

- Focus on Spanish translation
- Will begin this fiscal year

Field Testing

- Focus on assessing (within household) proxy reporting
- Exploring testing placement, question wording
- Will test self-response; hoping to also test CAPI
- Field test will likely occur in the spring of 2024

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Protecting Respondent Confidentiality — Disclosure Avoidance Modernization

The Census Bureau takes its oath to protect respondent data very seriously

December 2022 blog outlined the current status of disclosure avoidance modernization for the ACS:

- Strengthening confidentiality protections for the ACS is a continuous process
- The science for a formally private solution for complex sample surveys like the ACS does not yet exist
- We are taking the time to carefully research options and engage with the data user community
- This will be a multiyear effort that will extend beyond 2025
- Currently researching the feasibility of creating a high-quality, fully synthetic public-use microdata file and accompanying validation service

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/disclosure-avoidance.html

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Engaging with Data Users

Ways we communicate:

- ACS Data Users Group online community website and forum (4,500+ members)
- ACS Data Users Steering Committee (10-15 members selected every 3 years)
- ACS Data User Conferences (biennial)
- Public Webinars
- Presentations/exhibits at events across the country
- ACS website/data user resources
- Monthly e-mail updates to over 80,000 subscribers
- Social media marketing
- Ongoing support for respondents and data users via e-mail and phone calls
- Soliciting ACS data user stories and use cases



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Engaging with Data Users

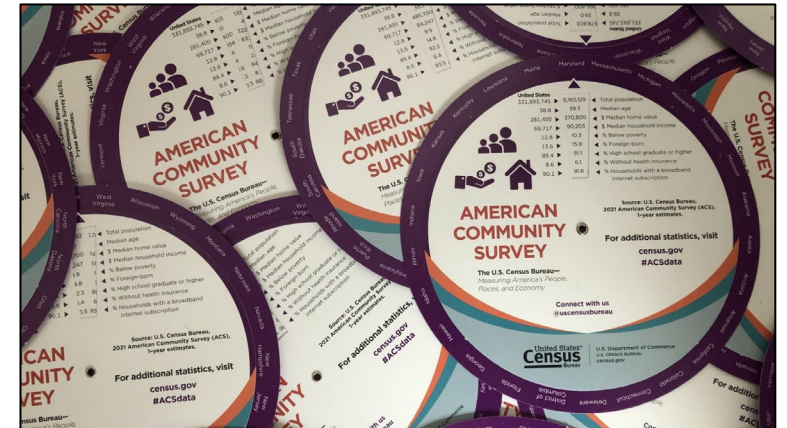
The ACS program values your feedback and keeps data users in mind in all we do

2022 ACS Data Users Survey—Your feedback in action

- Promoting existing resources to a broader audience
- Developing an ACS GitHub
- Exploring new events to reach new data users
- Feedback session between data users and data.census.gov staff

2022 Congressional District and State Legislative District Data Release

- Special release of ACS Data Profiles released in new congressional and state legislative boundaries
- Available via a web-based tool on the ACS website
- March 16 webinar with the Population Reference Bureau, Council of State Governments, and National Conference of State Legislatures



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Engaging with Data Users

New data user resources:

- **ACS course** – Discovering the American Community Survey
- **ACS videos** showcasing impactful uses of ACS data:
 - YMCA, Centre County Pennsylvania, National Grid
- **ACS webinars**
 - January 18 – Puerto Rico and the ACS
 - March 15 – Comparing the ACS to the American Housing Survey (AHS)
 - April 19 – ACS and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Data
 - April 20 – Guiding Business Decisions
 - **Upcoming sessions:**
 - May 25 – Emergency Management
 - May 31 – American Indians and Alaska Natives and the ACS
 - June 29 – Housing and Real Estate
 - July 12 – Journalists and the ACS
 - July 27 – Race and Ethnicity
 - August 23 – Intro to the ACS
 - September 27 – Exploring ACS Commuting Data



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Upcoming Data Releases

Selected Population Tables & the American Indian and Alaska Native Tables (SPT/AIANT) — June 15, 2023

- Released every five years and provides the greatest level of statistical detail for specific population groups
- Selected Population Tables
 - Available for selected race, Hispanic origin, tribal, and ancestry populations
- American Indian and Alaska Native Tables
 - Available for selected tribal populations
- The 2017-2021 ACS 5-year SPT/AIANT release will provide estimates for 1,353 selected race, tribal, Hispanic origin, and ancestry groups -- including 1,058 individual tribal groups

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Planned Release Dates for the 2022 ACS Data Products

2022 ACS 1-Year Release

Data Products	Release
1-Year Estimates Public Release	September 14, 2023
1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	October 19, 2023
1-Year Supplemental Estimates	October 19, 2023

2018-2022 ACS 5-Year Release

Data Products	Release
5-Year Estimates Public Release	December 7, 2023
5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	January 25, 2024
5-Year Variance Replicate Estimates	January 25, 2024

Thank you!