

Changes to the 2008 American Community Survey Data Products

Scott Boggess
U.S. Census Bureau

FSCPE/SDC
Suitland, MD
June 3, 2009

Outline

- 1) Overview of Data Products
- 2) Data Product Release Schedule
- 3) Summary of Changes
- 4) Changes by Product Type and Topic
- 5) Changes to Disability Products
- 6) Changes Due to Other Revised Content
- 7) Changes Due to New Content
- 8) Other Changes

ACS Data Products

- **Detailed Tables**
- **Profiles**
 - Data Profiles
 - Narrative Profiles
 - Comparison Profiles
 - Selected Population Profiles (SPPs)
- **Other Tabulated Products**
 - Subject Tables
 - Ranking Tables
 - Geographic Comparison Tables (GCTs)
- **Thematic Maps**
- **Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files**

ACS Data Products Release Schedule

Data Product	Population Size of Area	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013
1-Year Estimates:	65,000+	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3-Year Estimates:	20,000+	2005- 2007	2006- 2008	2007- 2009	2008- 2010	2009-2011	2010- 2012
5-Year Estimates:	All Areas*			2005- 2009	2006- 2010	2007-2011	2008- 2012

* Five-year estimates will be available for areas as small as census tracts and block groups.
Source: US Census Bureau

2008 ACS Data Product Changes

- **99 Deleted Tables**
 - 95 Detailed Tables (most replaced by new tables)
 - 2 Subject Tables
 - 2 Ranking Tables
- **108 New Tables**
 - 99 Detailed Tables
 - 2 Subject Tables
 - 7 Ranking Tables
- **55 Modified Tables**
 - 37 Detailed Tables
 - 17 Subject Tables
 - Data Profiles

New Data Products for 2008 by Topic

Topic	Topic ID	Detailed Tables	Subject Tables	Ranking Tables, Geographic Comparison Tables, Thematic Maps
Place of Birth	05	2	0	0
Relationship	09	3	0	0
Grandparents	10	1	0	0
Households and Families	11	1	0	1
Marital Status and History	12	14	0	4
School Enrollment	14	19	0	0
Educational Attainment	15	2	0	0
Language	16	9	0	0
Poverty	17	0	0	1
Disability	18	30	2	1
Veterans	21	4	0	0
SNAP/Food Stamps	22	1	0	0
Employment Status	23	5	0	0
Industry, Occupation, and Class of Worker	24	2	0	0
Health Insurance	27	6	0	0
TOTAL		99	2	7

Deleted Data Products for 2008 by Topic

Topic	Topic ID	Detailed Tables	Subject Tables	Ranking Tables, Geographic Comparison Tables, Thematic Maps
Grandparents	10	1	0	0
School Enrollment	14	9	0	0
Disability	18	76	2	2
Veterans	21	2	0	0
SNAP/Food Stamps	22	2	0	0
Employment Status	23	5	0	0
TOTAL		95	2	2

Modified Data Products for 2008 by Topic

Topic	Topic ID	Detailed Tables	Subject Tables	Ranking Tables, Geographic Comparison Tables, Thematic Maps	Profile Lines
Age and Sex	01	0	4	0	yes
Race	02	0	0	0	yes
Ancestry	04	12	0	0	no
Place of Birth	05	0	0	0	yes
Relationship	09	0	1	0	no
Grandparents	10	0	1	0	yes
School Enrollment	14	0	1	0	no
Poverty	17	0	1	0	no
Disability	18	0	0	0	yes
Earnings	20	0	1	0	no
Veterans	21	0	1	0	yes
SNAP/Food Stamps	22	0	1	0	no
Employment Status	23	0	2	0	no
Industry, Occupation, and Class of Worker	24	25	4	0	yes
Housing Characteristics	25	0	0	0	yes
Group Quarters	26	0	4	0	no
TOTAL		37	17	0	8

Most of the Data Product Changes Stem From Changes to the Questionnaire

- **3 New Topics**
 - Marital History
 - Health Insurance
 - Service-Connected Disability
- **Notable changes to many other topics including**
 - Disability
 - Employment
 - Relationship
 - Educational Attainment and Grade Enrolled
 - Year of Naturalization
 - Food Stamps

Changes to the Disability Questions

- Over half the 2008 data product changes were due to changes to the disability questions and instructions
- These changes were significant enough that 2008 disability estimates are NOT comparable with previous disability estimates
- This is true even for the estimate of with or without a disability

Changes to the Disability Products

- As a result, we deleted all 83 old disability tables and replaced them with 33 new tables
- We also replaced tables that cross with disability
 - Grandparents (1)
 - Veterans (2)
 - SNAP/Food Stamps (1)
 - Employment (3)
- Many of the new disability tables will look exactly like the old tables but will carry a different table ID and a footnote to let users know that the estimates are not comparable with previous years
- Because of the break in series, there will not be any disability estimates in the 3-year data products until 2011 when we publish the 2008-2010 estimates

Other Changes Due to *Revised Content*

- Fifteen new tables for expanded relationship (3), grade enrolled (10), and educational attainment (2)
- Two new foreign born tables displaying data from the new year of naturalization write-in
- Two employment tables deleted because the new categorical weeks worked question does not allow the calculation of aggregate or mean weeks worked
- One SNAP/Food Stamp table deleted because we no longer collect SNAP/Food Stamp amount

Changes Due to *New Content*

- Nine new marital history tables
- Two new service-connected disability tables
- Six new health insurance tables

Other Changes

- Twelve ancestry tables modified due to the creation of a new Irish-Scotch code
- Twenty-five industry tables modified due a regular update of the industry codes
- Two new tables for multigenerational households
- Two? new detailed occupation by median earnings tables published only for the nation
- Most of the remaining changes involve new or deleted collapsed or race-iterated tables

Possible Additional Changes to the 2008 Employment Products

- In 2008, many of the employment questions and instructions were rewritten to make them more consistent with the CPS employment questions
- Test results suggest that these changes should result in an increase in ACS estimates of employment and year-round workers and a decrease in estimates of unemployment
- These changes may be large enough that they also constitute a break in series similar to the disability estimates
- If so, this would necessitate additional changes to at least some of the employment tables beyond what we have already discussed

Not All Questionnaire Changes Necessitated Product Changes

- To be consistent with the 2010 Census
 - Switch from grid to sequential layout for basic demographics
 - Changes to Hispanic and race questions and instructions
- Changes to housing questions on year built, rooms, bedrooms, plumbing and kitchen facilities, tenure, and home value
- Changes to person questions on previous residence, and veteran status

2008 Change is Relatively Small

- **Compared with 2004, 2005, and 2006, this is not a lot of change**
- **2004**
 - Introduced a new table ID system
 - Introduced Subject Tables and SPPs
 - Added 64 new Ranking Tables
- **2005**
 - Introduced Collapsed Tables
- **2006**
 - Introduced GQ Population to Table Universes
- **2007**
 - Added 116 Detailed Tables
 - Deleted 12 Detailed Tables

Reasons to Expect More Change in 2009 than in 2008

- Expansion of the Disability, Health Insurance, Employment, and GQ Data Product Packages
- Addition of Race-Iterated Tables for Disability, Health Insurance, and Marital History
- New Topic = Field of Degree

For more information

Data Product Details (updated through 2007)

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide/2007/index.htm

2007 and 2008 Questionnaires

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/SQuest/SQuest1.htm>

2006 Content Test Reports

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/AdvMeth/Papers/Papers1.htm>