ACS Administration on Aging Custom Tabulation User Notes

Special Notes

The Universe used for the disability tables are the Civilian Noninstutionalized Population, 60 years and over.

Detailed Table Notes

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see Accuracy of the Data URL http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/)

The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

While the 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) data generally reflect the December 2009 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas; in certain instances the names, codes, and boundaries of the principal cities shown in ACS tables may differ from the OMB definitions due to differences in the effective dates of the geographic entities.

Estimates of urban and rural population, housing units, and characteristics reflect boundaries of urban areas defined based on Census 2000 data. Boundaries for urban areas have not been updated since Census 2000. As a result, data for urban and rural areas from the ACS do not necessarily reflect the results of ongoing urbanization.

All cells in any American Community Survey special tabulation are rounded based on Disclosure Review Board Rules.

Explanation of Symbols

*1. An '**' entry in the margin of error column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the margin of error. A statistical test is not appropriate.*
2. An '-' entry in the estimate column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest interval or upper

interval of an open-ended distribution.
3. An '-' following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
4. An '+' following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
*5. An '***' entry in the margin of error column indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.*
*6. An '*****' entry in the margin of error column indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test for sampling variability is not appropriate.*

Disclosure Review Board Rules/Requirements

1. All American Community Survey special tabulations must be reviewed by the Disclosure Review Board. After the tabulation has been created, if the program area identifies any potential disclosure problems, they will refer them back to the DRB.

2. All cells in any American Community Survey special tabulation must be rounded.

The rounding schematic for all tables is:

- *0 remains 0*
- *1-7 rounds to 4*
- *8 or greater rounds to nearest multiple of 5 (i.e., 864 rounds to 865, 982 rounds to 980)*
- *Any number that already ends in 5 or 0 stays as is.*
- *Any totals or subtotals needed should be constructed before rounding. This assures that universes remain the same from table to table, and it is recognized that cells in a table will no longer be additive after rounding.*

3. Medians or other quantiles may be calculated as an interpolation from a frequency distribution of unrounded data (these are not subject to additional rounding), or as a point quantile. These must be rounded to two significant digits: 12,345 would round to 12,000; 167,452 would round to 170,000. There must be at least 5 cases on either side of the quantile point. It is recognized that a quantile may indeed be some individual's response, but it is coincidental, not by design.

4. Thresholds on universes will normally be applied to avoid showing data for very small geographic areas or for very small population groups (often 3 or 50 unweighted cases). Tables may normally not have more than 3 or 4 dimensions, and mean cell size lower limits may also be required (mean cell size of each table is 3 unweighted cases).

5. Percents, rates, etc., should be calculated after rounding, but the DRB has granted exceptions to this rule when the numerator and/or denominator of the percent or rate is not shown.

6. Means and aggregates must be based on at least 3 values

Supporting documentation

Supporting documentation on code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, and statistical testing can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Data and Documentation section located on:

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/#doc2010

Sample size and data quality measures (including coverage rates, allocation rates, and response rates) can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Methodology section of the ACS Website located on:

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample_size_and_data_quality/