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We Bring Value-Added Census Data and Education to the User

SDC Steering Committee Conference Call Briefing on CPS/ACS Poverty and Income Release August 28, 2006

Steven Buckner, Census Information Office, started off the briefing by introducing Lisa Blumberman, American Community Survey (ACS), and David Johnson, Chief, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division (HHES).

There will be a news conference that will take place at 10AM EST tomorrow. The news conference will also be broadcast on the internet as a web cast. More information on tomorrow's news conference can be found at: http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/007378.html. Data is expected to be loaded in American FactFinder around 10:10AM.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS)

CPS estimates of income, poverty, and health insurance will be released along with the second wave of ACS data. The news conference will highlight median income and earnings across states, as well as, feature maps showing state poverty rates.

David Johnson made an important distinction that CPS data will be better for making comparisons across time, but ACS data will be better suited for comparisons across geographies.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Tomorrow's release is the second of four waves for the 2005 ACS. This wave will contain approximately 575 tables with information on employment, journey to work, occupation, industry, class of worker, income and benefits, and poverty.

ACS PUMS data are expected to be released late tomorrow or on Wednesday. The next wave of ACS data to be released will be the housing and detailed social characteristics data on October 15th. The last wave, selected population characteristics, is expected to be available November 14th. These latter waves of ACS data are expected to have an embargo period.

A note of caution was given, particularly with the journey to work data to be released tomorrow, that comparisons to Census 2000 are troublesome. In the case of journey to work, commute times in ACS may appear less than what was reported in Census 2000. This is likely due to seasonal effects being reflected in the ACS since ACS data are collected monthly rather than on a single date.