

**NATIONAL
STATE DATA CENTER
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Xan Wedel (KS)
Chair
Annette Watters (AL)
Vice-Chair
Pam Harris (MT) and
Pam Schenker (FL)
Secretary

Julie Hoang (CA)
Barbara Ronningen (MN)
Robert Scardamalia (NY)
Jane Traynham (MD)
Dan Veroff (WI)

*Representing a Network of 1,800
SDC/BIDC Data Centers and Affiliates Nationwide*

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

**SDC - Mid-Year Meeting
2010 Census National Partnership Conference
CICs/FSCPEs/SDCs
April 14-16, 2008 - New Orleans, LA**

The SDC network was well represented at this meeting with most states in attendance, along with partnership and leadership from the Regional Offices. The conference was at the Sheraton New Orleans and was held in conjunction with the Population Association of America (PAA) annual conference. Next year's SDC mid-year meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 27th - 29th, in Detroit, MI.

Monday, April 14

Welcome

Lisa Blumerman, Chief, Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office
Enrique Lamas, Chief, Population Division

Lisa opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The Bureau is looking to us, the partners to help ensure that the Census is as accurate and complete as possible. This meeting is the Bureau's first kick-off meeting for the 2010 Census. The Bureau will replicate this meeting for other groups, so they are looking to us for our suggestions, insights and thoughts. All of the attendees (CICs, SDCs, FSCPEs, and the Regional Offices) introduced themselves during this welcome session.

Enrique reflected on how the Bureau works closely with the groups at this meeting regarding the release of the population data products. They count on us, in particular the FSCPEs, for some of the data used in the products. Population Division also gets involved in analyzing data from the 2010 Census and the ACS.

Status of 2010 Census Preparations

Dan Weinberg, Assistant Director for Decennial Census

This session included an overview of the status of decennial census programs, including the LUCA Program, American Community Survey, 2008 Dress Rehearsal, and preparations for the 2010 Census. Dan reviewed the handout that is at: <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/danw.ppt>

ACS Update - Income and Poverty data are tentatively scheduled to be released on August 26th; remaining 2007 ACS data are expected in the second week of September; first 3-year average data will be available in early December. The 2008 questionnaire has new questions on health insurance coverage, veterans' service-connected disability, and marital history. The 2008 ACS methods panel was not funded, but the Bureau is hoping that it will be funded in 2009.

Census Dress Rehearsal - Questionnaires were mailed out today, April 14, 2008. Census day is May 1, 2008.

2010 Census Content Update - Submitted final 2010 questions to Congress on March 31, 2008 that can be found on the web at: http://www.census.gov/2010census/recent_news/011812.html

MAF/TIGER Accuracy Improvement Program - As of 3/31/08, all areas have been completed by Harris Corporation. There is one more deliverable due to the Census Bureau from the contractor, but the spatial upgrade files have all been completed including Puerto Rico and the Island areas.

2007 Census Bilingual Forms Study - The Bureau mailed out the bilingual form to households where there is no adult that "speaks English very well". The plan at the moment is to continue to use this form for 2010. A complete report will be available for review of this study. The Bureau expects to mail out 11-13 million bilingual forms.

Budget issues - Due to budget cuts, the Bureau will cut back staffing; cut out processes that have been tested previously; delayed dress rehearsal and cancelled non-response follow-up for the dress rehearsal. The Bureau still plans to prepare prototype redistricting data.

LUCA - Over 11,000 governments, about 29% of jurisdictions agreed to participate in LUCA, covering about 92% of housing units. As of April 7th, the Bureau received responses from 40% of participants. If a local government send their LUCA submission in late, the Bureau will still accept it, but it will go to the end of the queue.

Regional Census Centers and Early Local Census Offices - The 12 Regional Census Centers and the Puerto Rico Area Office are open and functional. The Bureau has signed leases for 26% of the 150 Early Local Census Offices.

Field Data Collection Automation Contract - On April 3rd, the Bureau announced that they would be doing a paper-based non-response follow-up in lieu of using the handheld units. There were four major areas that were highlighted: Address Canvassing - the contractor will continue to develop handhelds; Non-response Follow-Up - the Census Bureau will take responsibility and do paper using the contractors operation control system; the computer systems in the RCCs - this will become solely the Bureau's responsibility; and Support for LCOs. This contract with Harris Corporation was part of "solution-based contracting", meaning that the Census Bureau scopes out high-level instructions and the contractor interprets how best to deliver this. The Bureau set up a team of high ranking Census personnel to review the contract and 2010 Census strategies. About 400 requirements were sent to the contractor on January 16, 2008. Some of these were known activities and included items such as no drill down reports. By the end of January Harris Corporation responded and the outcome was that the cost was too high and the contractor could not perform all of the activities on the list.

Data Response Integration System (DRIS) - This data capture contract is with Lockheed Martin and the system is ready for dress rehearsal.

Integrated Communications Contract - DraftFCB received the contract and the draft plan is not ready to be shared, but should be ready in May.

Planning Database - The development of the planning database for the public is set for next summer. The Bureau hopes to integrate 2007 and 2008 ACS into the system.

Language Program - The 2010 Census form will be available as an English/Spanish bilingual form that will be mailed to tracts with a high concentration of "Spanish assistance" households and will also be available in five languages: Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Russian. There will also be language assistance guides that will be available in at least 50 languages. Some of these guides will be available through Telephone Assistance Centers and they will also be available via the Internet.

Data Products - Four one-page profiles are still planned and the Bureau will share the layout with the network, hopefully this summer. There should be long-form data for tracts from the 2005-2009 ACS before there is short-form data, as the 5-year data will be available either late 2010 or early 2011.

Group Quarters Enumeration - The procedure for group quarters enumeration is that the Bureau will go to an address and confirm that it is a group quarters facility, then schedule a time to collect, and then enumerate. For the dress rehearsal, only the first step (validation) will be done.

The participants expressed concern regarding the timing for GQ enumeration. The network needs to work with the Regional Office to arrange scheduling. Also, the Bureau will communicate more accurate definitions of group quarters, especially relating to assisted living facilities. Concern was also expressed by the attendees in regard to universities and apartment style dormitories. Dan agreed that there should be common procedures for identifying dorms and will have Lisa Blumerman send this out to the networks. Consistency is very important for Census data collection.

Apportionment counts will be available by the end of 2010. Redistricting data will be made available before April 1, 2011.

Geographic Programs Update

Linda Franz, Assistant Division Chief, Geography Division

This session provided an update on the current status of the LUCA program. Also, information about the MAF/TIGER modernization, the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), and the School District Program Review were provided. The Geography Division's current major objective is to develop a complete address list and a complete and readable map for the 2010 Census. Linda reviewed the handout that is at:

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/kolindaf.ppt>

TIGER/Line Shapefiles - At the end of March, the Census Bureau released a full set of TIGER/Line Shapefiles. These files can be downloaded individually or in bulk. The files are grouped based on "unique to the geography", state-based files will have incorporated places, county-based files will have census tracts and blocks.

Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS) - In the middle years of the decade, BAS is conducted to collect information about selected legally defined geographic areas. This is a holdover from when the Bureau only needed data for large areas for the Economic Census. In an ACS world, it really makes sense to receive data from all local governments annually. 2008 BAS was a "welcome back" to many jurisdictions for collection of data. If the budget permits, the future should allow for annual collection for all areas. Boundary updates can be done either using paper, MAF/TIGER Partnership Software, digitally (allows local governments to use their own GIS software), e-BAS for submitting forms, and, in 2009, a true web-based system (tabular and spatial data). The true web-based system will most likely not be used by local governments that have their own GIS, but may be attractive to local governments that are currently doing paper BAS. The mailout for BAS typically occurs in November/December and sometimes in January, but this time it was pushed back to February. April 1st was the deadline for inclusion in 2008 ACS and population estimates. May 31st is the deadline for incorporation into 2009 BAS files.

LUCA - Local governments had until December 31, 2007 to register for LUCA. If they registered by November 19th, they were guaranteed the full 120-days for review. Areas are sending their reviewed materials back in to the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau will validate the submissions during an Address Canvassing operation that should start in the spring of 2009 and provide feedback to local governments in the Fall/Winter of that year. Local areas will be able to appeal in late 2009. The block numbers on LUCA materials were the Census 2000 block numbers suffixed to take into account road features that have occurred since Census 2000 or new and updated boundaries (BAS) information. These will not be the blocks that will be used for the 2010 data tabulation. LUCA participants should geocode the data based on the LUCA materials.

Participant Statistical Areas - Proposed criteria was published for comment in the Federal Register in April 2007 for census tracts, block groups, census designated places (CDPs) and census county divisions (CCDs). Federal Register notices will the final criteria were published. To summarize: CCDs will be retained, the Bureau had previously thought that these may not be needed; CDPs must have population, no zero population areas; and in lieu of population, housing unit counts can be used to qualify tracts and block groups. The Regional Offices are in the process of determining who will do the delineation of PSAs for 2010. They will first contact the government entity that delineated / participated for Census 2000. If they are not willing or able to participate then the Bureau will contact a regional or multi-county organization, the local government agency, and finally a committee of interest organizations or individuals. The Federal Register notices for American Indian / Alaska Native areas were just published. Comments are due June 16th for Alaska Native and June 30th for American Indian areas. If you have comments, please respond to the Federal Register notices available at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-5282.pdf> and <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-6665.pdf>.

Redistricting Data Program Update

Cathy McCully, Chief Census Redistricting Data Office

Cathy was unable to attend the meeting and Linda Franz filled in for her.

This session provided a general update about the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program, including information about the training efforts for state participants, update on the prototype product in 2009, as well as information about the 2010 Census Redistricting data products.

Redistricting is a multi-phased program. In the first phase the Bureau collected state plans and visited 47 states. In January 2007, the Bureau released a new data product - State Legislative District Data.

The second phase began in July 2007 when the Bureau sent out letters offering states the opportunity to provide their voting districts/precincts plans for the states. The Bureau has 100% participation from all the states including the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The Bureau sent out a letter to all states with a request for each state to pick a county for initial review. At the end of March the Bureau delivered to each state one county to work with. This was so states could start getting familiar with the software and the process. This fall participants will receive all their state's data. The regional offices are working with the states to train them on the MAF/TIGER Software. States will have 4 months - 120 days - to complete this phase, with an ending deadline of April 1st 2009. Voting district plans can be tweaked slightly before the Bureau tabulates the 2010 census data.

A prototype redistricting data product will be released in the spring of 2009. There will be 80 summary levels as compared to the 20 that were available for redistricting data in 2000. School districts will be included. Maps as well as shapefiles will be sent to the states. The Department of Justice is a customer that uses this product (Section 2 & Section 5 - clearance of the redistricting data) in addition to states and vendors. There will also be data for 63 race groups. Dress rehearsal shapefiles should be available in January 2009, while data should be available in March 2009.

2010 Census Communications Campaign: Panel

Jennifer Marks, Chief, Census 2010 Publicity Office

Tasha Boone, Branch Chief, Census 2010 Communications Office

Lisa Blumerman, Chief, Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office

Stephen Buckner, Assistant Division Chief, Public Information Office

Tim Olson, Assistant Division Chief of ACS & Partnership, Field Division

This session provided a general overview of the 2010 Integrated Communications Program. Census Bureau staff gave an overview of the campaign including discussion of the campaign approach, strategy and messaging. Additionally, preliminary plans and strategies were discussed for regional and national partnerships, Census in Schools, and media activities. The panel reviewed the handout that is at:

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/kotasha.ppt>

DraftFCB is the contractor for the 2010 Census communications plan. They delivered a draft plan to the Bureau on February 5th and submitted a revised plan on March 18th. The final Communications plan will be submitted on May 30, 2008.

The DraftFCB team is made up of the following core partner subcontractors:

- Public relations: Weber Shandwick
- Media buyer: Initiative
- African-American: Global Hue
- Hispanic: Global Hue Latino
- Asian-American: IW Group
- American Indian/Alaska Native & Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander: G&G
- Emerging markets: Allied Media
- Recruitment: Marcom Group
- Design: Zona Design
- Translation: A to Si
- Puerto Rico: DraftFCB Puerto Rico

The goals for the 2010 Census campaign are the same as Census 2000; increase mail response, improve overall accuracy and reduce the differential undercount, and improve cooperation with enumerators. There was an increase in mail response for Census 2000 as shown in the handouts. The Bureau plans on hiring nearly 3 million applicants in 2009 and 2010, with most of the hiring for non-response follow-up.

This is the largest marketing campaign in the country as the Bureau has to reach every household. In order to accomplish this task, the Bureau is using actual behavior data based on the Census 2000 and the planning database. They have identified 12 hard-to-count variables based on census tracts and converted these data into 8 segments. The main purpose of this analysis is to determine where and how to develop a plan to reach the most population. The map that is on slide 27 of the handout shows the segmentation clusters for the 2010 integrated communications program.

The platform for the campaign is "It's In Our Hands". This expression has been tested with focus groups. The ad campaign needs to work with the audience, so a lot of testing will be done. The campaign will go to

market at the end of 2008 / early 2009 with over 100 creative ads for radio, TV, print, online and there are plans to develop ads in 14 different languages.

The primary push for the campaign is to reach the hard to count populations: single, unattached, mobiles; ethnic enclaves 1&2; and economically disadvantaged 1&2. Details of these enclaves are in the handout. The campaign will provide uniform materials to ensure that the same message is getting out. It will also have customizable materials to get out the message.

Partnership will hire about 680 people nationwide and will form a wide reaching network. Partnership will use a variety of methods that include: complete count committees; tribal liaison program; targeted outreach to hard-to-count populations; language support program; be counted / questionnaire assistance centers; partner support program; faith based organization outreach; census in schools program implementation; immigrant and foreign born outreach; localized promotional materials; and thank you campaign. Details of these methods are in the handout, slides 42 - 47.

It is important that the Bureau find the right people that have a dedication and sense of commitment to the census. They need a full buy-in to "It's In Our Hands". The Census is important as it creates the data that we live with for the next decade for apportionment, planning, money allocation, etc.

The Census in the Schools is in the process of developing a new website to reach students. This site will provide educators with information to bring the census alive to students who will go home and promote that census to their parents or guardians. This new site will have state facts, quizzes, word find, memory games and a coloring page.

Tuesday, April 15

Overview of 2010 Census Field Activities

Tim Olson, Assistant Division Chief of ACS & Partnership, Field Division

This session discussed the major field activities to be conducted by Regional Census Centers and Local Census Offices in 2009 and 2010. Included in the discussion will be Regional Census Center and Local Census Office infrastructure, recruiting operations in 2009 and 2010, Address Canvassing in 2009, Group Quarters Validation and Group Quarters Enumeration, Update Leave and Non-Response Follow-up field operations in 2010, Rural Alaska field operations, Be Counted and Questionnaire Assistance Center programs, and an overview of the regional Partnership Program that is commissioned with increasing the mail response, decreasing the differential undercount, and generating community support for operations. The handout for this session is at: <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/kotim.ppt>

Address List Development - This activity has multiple phases. The Local Update of Census Addresses phase is currently underway. During the Address Canvassing phase, canvassers go in a clockwise pattern around the block and review every housing unit, confirming if it is on the list and determining if it should be added or deleted from the list. When a canvasser comes across a unit that could be "an other living quarters", this address is passed on to the Group Quarters Validation phase that will occur in October 2009. The Update/Leave phase is conducted in areas where there are primarily PO Boxes, Rural Route Delivery, General Delivery, etc. Enumerators go to door-to-door and drop off questionnaires to these units.

Questionnaire Delivery - An advance letter will be mailed or delivered to all housing units between March 8-10th, 2010. After the first notice, Advance Letter, the questionnaires will be delivered or mailed March 15-17th, 2010. Much of the local grass roots efforts will be centered around this date.

Residency Rules - The residency rules for the 2010 Census are "where you live or sleep most of the time."

Enumeration Overview - In order to meet the enumeration activities, there will be about 150 Early Local Census Offices (ELCOs) that will open in late 2008 and shutdown between August and September 2010. The exact number of Local Census Offices (LCOs) has not been determined, but there will be at least one for every congressional district. The LCOs will open between October and December 2009 and close between August and September 2010.

Non-response Follow-up (NRFU) - This activity will take place late April and into May and June 2010 in mailout/mailback areas and update/leave areas. This is the most costly component of data collection for the Census operations.

In summary over 3 million people will need to be recruited to conduct the 2010 Census. The handout also details what SDCs can do to help to ensure that the 2010 Census is complete and accurately reflects the population of our states, local communities, and the country and Tim pointed out that the cities with Complete Count Committee in 2000 were more satisfied with their counts.

Working With the Regional Offices - Discussion Sessions

The participants (SDCs, CICs, and Regional Office staff) were divided into breakout groups by Regional Office where Regional Office staff led discussions on a variety of topics including complete count committees, local census office and regional census center employment opportunities, best practices, partnership relationships, discussion of challenges to an accurate count by state, promotional opportunities and whatever other topics states and RO staff wanted to discuss. SDCs and CICs also shared with the other attendees any 2010 Census plans they have in place. Also discussed was the importance of communications regarding Census activities, as the SDCs and CICs can shed light on timing of certain collection activities, i.e. group quarter data collection at Universities.

Partnerships: How Will They Work? Panel and Discussion Sessions

The SDC representatives provided more detail about their 2010 Census plans and/or best practices from Census 2000. This will be extremely useful information to SDC leads developing plans/activities for the first time or who were not a part of the SDC program during Census 2000.

Bob Scardamalia (New York), Yi Zhao (Washington), and Bob Coats (North Carolina) detailed what their states did for Census 2000 and their current plans for the 2010 Census. Some of the ideas that were discussed were:

- Start early to promote the Census and the partnership activities.
- Reach out to local governments, schools, faith-based organizations, etc. The most effective outreach is done at the local level, not at the state level.
- Develop materials that include flyers at toll booths; palm cards in drivers' license renewals; flyers in water bills; develop a PSA with a spokesperson; advertise via billboards, TV, radio, and movie theatres; media kits with state logo and tag lines; website; map of non-response rates; and cost to each county of an undercount.
- Work with other state agencies to let them know that the Census is coming and see what they can do to promote, especially Department of Education.
- Present before local government council/committee meetings, reinforcing the importance of the census and assist with local complete count committees.
- Work with association of press and broadcasters in order to get information out.

If you are not the Governor's Liaison, work with them. They will have a 2010 kickoff meeting in June 2008, after which they should be extremely motivated if they are not already.

Business Meeting

The Steering Committee held a brief business meeting to introduce the steering committee members, explain the process for being elected to the steering committee, and had attendees re-introduce themselves if this was their first decennial census.

Wednesday, April 16

Overview of Population Estimates

Katrina Wengert, Demographer, Population Division

This session provided an overview of Population Estimates program and process. The handout for this session is at: <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/katie.ppt>

The Census Bureau prepares population estimates for various universes that include: resident (same as decennial census), civilian and military, household and group quarters, and civilian noninstitutionalized (used for Current Population Survey - CPS) population. The whole time series that is revised annually is called a vintage. The Bureau makes sure the whole time series is consistent based on methodology, assumptions,

input data and geography. The Bureau timeline for releasing population estimates was presented, methodology, and data sources.

American Community Survey Update

Susan Schechter, Chief, American Community Survey Office

Cynthia Davis Hollingsworth, Statistician, American Community Survey Office

This session provided updates on various ACS topics, including the data products expected from the 2008 release on multi-year estimates and the ACS data-user training materials. The handout for this session is at: <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/suecynthia.ppt>

Due to FY08 budget constraints, the methods panel that funds activities that investigate survey efficiencies or test for content was not funded. FY09 budget request includes full funding for the ACS including the methods panel. Unless methods panel funding is received, these activities can not be done or planned. Also, due to FY08 budget needs related to the 2010 Census, there are additional reductions that can impact data quality such as reduced failed-edit follow-up operations.

The 2010 Census and ACS questions were submitted to Congress on March 31, 2008. This included both the questions and a narrative description of uses. The Bureau has implemented three new questions in the 2008 ACS questionnaire for marital history, veteran disability rating, and health insurance. There is currently a Federal Register Notice, comment period ends April 28, 2008, for the addition of an open-ended field of degree question to the 2009 ACS questionnaire and also to restore the duration of vacancy question to the CAPI (computer assisted personal interview) operation.

The 2006 ACS estimates were released in two waves, August 2007 was the income and poverty data, while in September 2007, the remaining 2006 ACS was released. ACS versus Census 2000 comparison guides were new for 2006.

In 2008, the Bureau will release both 2007 ACS 1-year estimates and 2005-2007 ACS 3-year estimates. This year (2008) will be the first release of 3-year estimates for areas with population of 20,000 and greater. The analysis of multi-year estimates study data was completed with both internal and external users. The handout displays the number of areas by type of area covered by the releases. Most data products will be identical to last year's data release; however the data profiles will also include estimates and percentages. A new and welcome addition to the Bureau's list of datasets is multi-year PUMS data. The Bureau is still discussing the possibility of providing 1-year vs. 3-year comparison tables. The release schedule for the 1-year estimates will be similar to last year, and the 3-year estimates are scheduled to be released in December.

The 3-year and 1-year ACS data will be available in American FactFinder (AFF). The default for AFF will be the most current data series, so the 2007 1-year data will be the default until the release of the 3-year 2005-2007 ACS data (after which the 3-year data will be the default). In the new DADS II that is being developed, one goal is to have an easier way to go between 1, 3, and 5 year ACS estimates. The Bureau is also currently producing a series of handbooks on "Understanding and Using ACS Data" that target different audiences, such as Congressional staff; high school teachers; state and local governments; federal agencies; rural areas including tribal and small local governments; university researchers; media; basic users; PUMS users; and the business community. Technical guides will also be available for more in depth needs/questions. Also, the Bureau will be conducting ACS train-the-trainer sessions and will forward the network the dates for the sessions once they are available.

American Community Survey Update: Panel of Agency Representatives

Panel members explained how various government agencies utilize ACS data for their programs. They discussed how they have incorporated these data for grants and specialized reports and also highlighted some of the limitations of the ACS data.

Fred Eggers, retired, former employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

This part of the session addressed three categories of applications of long-form type data used by federal agencies and examined the issues that may arise when agencies shift from the long form to the ACS. These issues were illustrated using examples from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the steps that HUD has taken to take advantage of the ACS. The handout for this session can be found at: <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/kofred.ppt>

HUD uses Census data for allocation of program funds by formula; determining eligibility for participation in federal programs; setting program parameters; distributing to users for grant applications; and developing, managing and evaluating policies and programs. HUD arranges for custom tabulations of Census data from the Bureau once a decade. An issue for them is to determine if they should order these data more often, which creates both a workload and a cost concern.

HUD has elected to gradually introduce ACS into their processes and procedures. Currently they are using 2000 Census data and use ACS to update the 2000 data for certain programs. HUD income data are built around "median" not the mean, so the seasonal impact and residence differences between Census 2000 and ACS may not create as much of an impact.

Ed Christopher, Community Planner, Department of Transportation

The Transportation community has historically been one of the largest users of the long-form data sponsoring its own special data tabulation all the way down to custom geography. In preparation of the ACS three and five-year data tabulations, the transportation community will again sponsor several data products that feature not only resident-based tables but tables on workers where they work and the flows on workers between where they live and work. The handout for this session can be found at:

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/edc.ppt>

DOT and the transportation community have had a long history of using Census data. These data are the basis for their products - Journey-to-work which then became UTPP and then CTPP. These products are based on Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) and are designed with travel and transportation in mind, not just residences. Using ACS data, these products will have the ability to display more tables, but there are also disclosure and rounding issues.

George Sheldon, Ph.D., Economist, Department of Veterans Affairs

This part of the session was devoted to uses of American Community Survey data in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with particular emphasis placed on use of ACS 2006 data to update the VA's veterans' population actuarial model (VetPop) by adjusting migration matrices. Discussion also covered a possible new approach to using ACS data in the future to adjust VetPop when ACS 2005-2006-2007 multi-year estimates are available and annual re-baselining is an option.

There were multiple files displayed for this session and they are located at:

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/fileone.doc>

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/filetwo.ppt>

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/filethree.xls>

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/filefour.doc>

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/filefive.xls>

ACS provides VA with current estimates for all veterans. The VA needs ACS survey data for actuarial models as they do not have administrative data accounting for every veteran living at a point in time and residing in some place. VA administrative data accounts for users of VA services only, and not all veterans use VA services. The Department of Defense provides administrative data describing separations from active duty service, but only from 1975 forward. VA uses survey data (Census 2000, ACS) to understand the demand for VA services (e.g., VA health care) in terms of the socio-demographic characteristics of veterans who switch from being a nonuser to a user of VA services.

A shift in the veterans' population is taking place across geography and over time. Annualized rates of decline are positive for the entire veterans population and dramatic (over 3%) in some areas (e.g., New York City/northern New Jersey). The result is a shift in the veterans' population from "rust belt" to "sun belt" states (and particularly to the southeast quadrant of the U.S.)

2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 ACCS data were presented showing counts of veterans classified by state and four age groups (with the estimates for 2003 through 2005 adjusted to account for group quarters.) Looking at percent change from year to year (%CHANGE), and then differencing %CHANGE from year to year (DIFF_%CHANGE) to identify large swings in estimates, it can be seen that ACS data shows considerable volatility measured as %CHANGE and DIFF_%CHANGE values exceeding 10 percentage points. This is particularly true for veterans in the youngest age groups (less than age 30.) This volatility even occurs in

states with large veteran populations (e.g., Florida; see data on next page). We expect this volatility to be reduced in multi-year ACS estimates.

Florida Veterans by Age and ACS Year (2003-2006)

(a) Estimates

Age	2003	2004	2005	2006
<30	63,795	73,825	65,090	80,085
30-44	282,425	274,440	255,845	245,765
45-64	633,215	653,440	641,810	631,995
>64	809,780	797,580	798,395	789,610
total	1,789,215	1,799,285	1,761,140	1,747,455

(b) Volatility in Estimates Over Time

Age	%Change			DIFF_%Change	
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	from 03-04 to 04-05	from 04-05 to 05-06
<30	16%	-12%	23%	-28%	35%
30-44	-3%	-7%	-4%	-4%	3%
45-64	3%	-2%	-2%	-5%	0%
>64	-2%	0%	-1%	2%	-1%
total	1%	-2%	-1%	-3%	1%

Notes: ACS 2003-2005 estimates have been adjusted upwards to account for group quarters (GQ) as estimated in Census 2000 where measurement of GQ was done by state, age (5-year age groups), and sex. Negative changes > 10% (in absolute value) are shown in red, and positive changes > 10% are shown in yellow.

Adjournment: 12:30 PM

Frank Ambrose thanked everyone for attending and wrapped up a very successful and well attended meeting.