

Census Data for Transportation Planning

"Preparing for the Future"

May 13, 2005

Data Products and Availability



***Help us get what we
need!***

Desired Products

Give us what we need!!

- Annual

- We welcome the addition of the new Place of Work tables introduced by the Census Bureau. Thank you!
- Standard Base tables by Place of Residence and Place of Work should be provided at the TAZ level in addition to block group and census tract
- There is a need for MPO Summary level accompanied by appropriate confidence intervals

- 5-year CTPP product

- Long range transportation plans are prepared every 3-5 years, therefore there is a need such a full CTPP product every five years
- A CTPP product should be produced on 5 non-overlapping year intervals
- Standard base tables and the 5-year CTPP should differentiate between workers in group quarters and workers in households
- Notwithstanding those standard base tables now proposed by the Census Bureau and requested by the user community at the TAZ level, there is still a desire to obtain a CTPP product from ACS

Desired Products

Give us what we need!!

- 5-year CTPP product
 - The content of this new product should be similar to CTPP 2000 without suppression or rounding
 - Product timing should be staged for delivery in 2007-2011 or 2008-2012 time frame to enable users to make effective use of new census small area geography
 - The new 5-year CTPP or CTPP-like product must include the following new Part 3 tables
 - Flow data at the TAZ level at mode (18), and
 - Average travel time by mode (18)

Master Address File/TIGER Line Update

Nothing works without a good road map!

- Continuous update, enhancement and maintenance of TIGER/MAF is critical for a high quality ACS
- TAZs should become standard geography in TIGER/Line
 - TAZs could change once in a decade using a regular process
 - Knowing disclosure rules and their impact prior to defining TAZs would be helpful
 - When defining TAZs for the CTPP, the user community must know the final TIGER/Line features for the 2010 Census
- Since annual MPO level data will be a standing request, then the MPO region must become a reporting geography
- There is a critical growing need for the Census Bureau to improve TIGER/Line addresses to increase geocoding quality of workplace locations

Disclosure?

Don't give us a vanilla ice cream filled with arsenic!

- The transportation planning community respects the need and the spirit of confidentiality rules and practices, however, the implementation of specific disclosure techniques as applied to the 2000 CTPP flow data caused irreparable damage to the utility of the package

Disclosure?

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- The well documented technique of introducing noise into data tables is seen as an acceptable disclosure method that holds promise for preserving data integrity, but the application of suppression and rounding are totally unacceptable
 - *Consistent lies are better than inconsistent truths – J. Tayman, 2005*
- Key federal, state, regional and transportation planning advocacy agencies must demand and initiate an open dialogue process with the Disclosure Review Board to frame disclosure rules

ACS Data Integration

Mixing apples and oranges usually produces fruit salad

- Transportation data user community found no compelling reasons to divert resources away from better census product creation in order to integrate ACS data with census/noncensus databases
- Investment in the LED Program
 - Viewed as an interesting and important area of research and development
 - Transportation planning community recognition of the need to judiciously spend finite amount of money
 - Compilation, processing, and analysis of LEHD component products is considered a worthwhile project
- A more compelling and immediate data integration need was expressed for implementing an aggressive “add-on” program for NHTS

ACS Data Integration

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- A widely supported view emerged that if the data user community garnered access to extra transportation data funds, then we would be more interested in including additional questions (e.g. stops on the way to work) on the ACS that would better inform our current activities

** Academic community felt that LEHD should be integrated into the ACS to provide annual updates.



ACCESSING THE ACS

We want it all!

- Transportation data user community now expects to receive a CTPP and PUMS product (5-year and annual)
- Most MPOs and others don't know how to use PUMS
 - Census Bureau needs to market PUMS better
 - Gaining access to PUMS is cryptic
 - User community would rather get the ASCII file first to avoid waiting for the development and dissemination of PUMS processing software
- 100 percent of the ACS sample instead of 40 percent so we can evaluate lesser used modes?
- Desire for an Advanced query system for a CTPP-like product
- PUMA of work needs to be geocoded for all PUMAs



Guidance and Training

Another workshop?!

- ACS Guidebooks from NCHRP and Census Bureau are welcome and essential
- Widely held user community view that new ACS products require a more systematic and thorough training process that addresses data collection, statistical validity, and interpretation and use
- Avenues for Training
 - Work through the State Data Centers
 - Census Bureau and state DOTs should conduct workshops to teach MPOs (sponsorships and joint training events)
 - Training needs to include basic definitions and concepts
 - Training on data management would help data users



Guidance and Training

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- Along with guidebooks, Census Bureau needs to practice extensive of embedded data labels with data
- An ACS specialized on-line knowledge base should be developed and launched
- Listserv of ACS data users is needed to increase and maintain awareness

Dialogue

Let there be peace in the valley!

- A continuous product demands consistent support
 - Dialogue is important to get disclosure issues resolved, and then there must be support this ACS activity every year
 - Groups such as AASHTO SCOP, NARC, APA, AMPO, and APTA need to support our efforts in concert with our federal transportation agency partners
- Educate executive directors and policy board members at MPOs and state DOTs to support data production
 - Need crisp brochures to describe the changes to EDs
- We need a high-level champion
 - Use the FAIP process to impress the CB with major decision makers from DOT along with the technical people
- Peer applications exchange between ACS users
- Need to seek input from MPOs and State DOTs on Federal Register releases