

Workforce Information Database Prototype Demographics Table Notes on Content & Creation – October 2011

Sources of Information

Information in the file was taken from the 2000 and 2010 Census Summary File 1 (SF1), American Community Survey (ACS) single-year estimates for 2002-2010, and ACS three-year estimates for 2005-2007, 2006-2008 and 2007-2009, and ACS five-year estimates for 2005-2009. (note that national Census 2010 SF1 data and multi-year ACS estimates for three- and five-year periods ending in 2010 will be released late in 2011.)

Census vs. ACS data for 2010

With the release of the 2010 ACS data, the data now contain two sets of data for that year, from both the Census and ACS. It is important to be able to describe the differences between the two sources. The census data are for a single point in time, April 1 of the census year, while the ACS data are comprised of all surveys received during the survey period, whether it's for one, three or five years. The census data are complete counts, so no margin of error estimates are provided. Since the ACS data result from a survey, margin of error estimates are provided with the data, many of which are included in the WID Demographics table.

Geographic Levels and Coverage

The file contains data for the nation, states, counties and places. State-specific files will contain data for the nation, the state, and the state's counties and places that meet population criteria for the source of the data. Census 2000 and 2010 data are included for all counties and places. Single-year ACS data are included for areas with populations of 65,000 or more. Three-year ACS data include areas with populations of 20,000 or more. It's not uncommon for the number of counties and places for which estimates are available to increase as areas' populations cross those thresholds. Population thresholds are removed for five-year estimates, which are generated down to the block group level. Demographics files for the WID contain national, state, county and place estimates.

Data Coverage and Completeness

Variables included in the table structure were selected because of their inclusion in both 2000 Census and ACS files. Margin of error estimates are also included for a number of the variables. Additional information about those estimates:

- Data from Census 2000 are taken from 100 percent counts, and there are no margin of error estimates for them.
- Margin of error estimates are not available for all variables included in the demographics table. Some variables are sums of other variables, and no margin of error estimates will be available for those. For example, the population aged 15-19 was summed from two age groups: those 15-17 and those 18-19. Population counts for all three age groupings (15-17, 18-19 and 15-19) are included in the file, with margin of error estimates for only the first two.

Links to Source Data

Census 2000: <http://www.census.gov/census2000/sumfile1.html>

American Community Survey:

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_main/

Census 2010: http://www2.census.gov/census_2010/04-Summary_File_1/

Working with Multi-year Estimates

The use of multi-year ACS estimates greatly increases the number of geographic areas for which estimates are available. The number of places included in the 2008 single-year estimates was 532. Three-year estimates for 2007-2007 included estimates for 2,081 places. The Census Bureau has provided guidance in making comparisons of multi-year data with that from the Census, and issues that may have an impact on those comparisons. See http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/comparing_data/

For more information

Feel free to contact the National Crosswalk Service Center at ncsc@iowa.gov for more information about the prototype Workforce Information Database demographics table.