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>> Hi, I'm Mary Leisenring. Census Academy welcomes you to Module Three of our American Community Survey Course, Data Products.

>> Hi, I'm Vicki Mack from the American Community Survey Office. This video is designed to help you understand the differences between the main ACS data products, how to access important information about their releases, and see the variety of data tables and profiles built from these data products. We'll also point you to the table list and table shells, which help you identify or determine what data are available.

After today's video, you'll be able to understand the differences between the main ACS data products and locate important data release information; explain the differences between data profiles, data tables, and special packages; understand how data is laid out in profiles or tables using table shells and identify what profiles or tables are available from the table list; and finally, demonstrate how to access data profiles from the data profiles tool on the ACS website.

>> What are the main ACS data products?

>> You can access the most current and previous data release schedules on the ACS data releases page shown here. You can also browse important information supporting each of the data releases. The link to this page, and all other web pages we show today, are provided in the links below the video.

>> As explained in the previous modules, ACS data are released based on the population size of each geographic area. The Census generally releases three main ACS data products, the one-year, one-year supplemental, and five-year estimates.

We release the data through a variety of tables about one year after the data are collected. ACS one-year estimates, which combine data collected over 12 months, are available for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more.

ACS one-year supplemental estimates are a subset of detailed tables that are available for geographic areas with populations of 20,000 or more. One-year supplemental estimates are simplified versions of popular ACS tables and provide the most current data to almost twice as many geographies compared to the standard one-year release.

ACS five-year estimates combined data collected over 60 months are available for geographic areas of all population sizes down to those granular census tracts and block-group levels. Now let's talk about how to access the data. The Census Bureau creates more than 1,200 tables from the ACS data that are released every year. You can start your search with the ACS data page.

From here, there are links to popular tables or the data tables link. Let's talk about some of the key tables available and how to access them. The Census Bureau provides many types of tables and profiles from the ACS. Broadly speaking, the ACS data products are classified as either profiles or tables. The different profiles offer a broad look at a community's social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics.

They include many different variables. They are either about a geography or a population. The profiles include data profiles, which I will cover more in depth in a moment; narrative profiles, comparison profiles, and selected population profiles.

Narrative profiles are short analytic reports derived from the ACS five-year estimates covering 18 different topic areas. Each narrative profile provides text and bar charts to display highlights of selected social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates for a selected geographic area.

Comparison profiles show ACS data side by side from different data releases indicating where there is a statistically significant difference between estimates. Selected population profiles provide summary tables separately for hundreds of detailed race, ethnic, and tribal groups. ACS-selected population profiles are always labeled S0201. The data profiles are good places to start for novice data users, as they contain the most frequently requested social, economic, housing, and demographic data.

Each of these four subject areas is a separate data profile. Table DP02, Social Characteristics, include topics such as education, marital status, relationships, fertility, and grandparents. Table DP03, economic characteristics, include topics such as income, employment, occupation, and commuting to work. Table DP04, housing characteristics, include occupancy and structure, housing value and costs, and utilities. Table DP05, demographic characteristics, include topics such as sex and age, race, Hispanic origin, and housing units. Let's use this data profiles tool on the ACS website to select table DP02, selected social characteristics.

I want to show you how to drill down to a geography level using the tools on this page. I will show you how to find data for a city or place using Austin, Texas, as an example. Click on place under geography type. Select Texas in the state selection box. Next select Austin, City, Texas. Then click on the get data profile links button. Select Social Characteristics. When you do that, you will be taken to the data.census.gov site, which provides a list of tables, and DP02 will be the first option. It includes the data for the State of Texas and the City of Austin in that one table.

Tables provide a precise or detailed view of a subject, and the subject matter is the focus of the table. Some of the types of tables are listed on the screen, but more types and descriptions can be found on the data tables page shown earlier. While most of these data products are available in data.census.gov, the ranking tables and geographic comparison tables are only available through the ACS website.

Supplemental tables are simplified tables that provide ACS statistics at a lower population threshold than the standard one-year data tables. Detailed tables provide access to the most detailed ACS data and cross-tabulations of ACS variables.

Subject tables are similar to data profiles, but include more detailed ACS data classified by subject. Ranking tables provide state rankings of estimates across 89 key variables. Geographic comparison tables compare geographic areas such as states, counties, or congressional districts for key variables.

Now that you understand more about the types of data products we offer, let's talk about how we identify the ACS tables or profiles. Each table or profile has a unique ID, while the characters of the table ID may look random at first, each table ID is purposefully numbered to describe its content and format.

Our Table IDs Explained page provides a detailed explanation of each portion of the table ID. Now, how do you know what tables are available in the content of the tables? You can see what tables and profiles are released each year and how the tables are laid out by going to the technical documentation page and downloading the table shells and table list spreadsheets. Table shells display what is in each table.

They provide the layout of the tables without the estimates or margins of error filled in. They contain the line number, description of the data and table ID. Table shells are available one week before the data are released, allowing users to preview new layouts in advance.

The table list allows you to search through a spreadsheet to find a table based on your interests. For example, if you're looking for a table on poverty, you can search through the spreadsheet's table title column, or filter that column for tables that include poverty in the title.

The ACS table list contains columns with the table IDs, table titles, table universes, and one-year or five-year availability for all detailed tables, supplemental estimate tables, comparison profiles, data profiles, and subject tables in one spreadsheet.

>> Let's take a break for a knowledge check.

>> Which ACS data profiles, or tables, provide novice users with the most frequently requested social, economic, housing, and demographic data? Ranking tables, narrative profiles, data profiles, or subject tables? If you said data profiles, you are correct. They provide the most frequently requested social, economic, housing, and demographic data.

>> Let's learn about some of the special table packages we have to meet a variety of data user needs.

>> There are several special data tables made from ACS estimates listed in our table packages on our data tables page. These special data tables provide data for a variety of data users. These are products that are mostly not found on data.census.gov. They may or may not be available every year, and some are only available once a decade. I will discuss a few of these next.

The ACS asks respondents about their primary workplace location and where they reside. The respondents' primary workplace locations, coupled with their residence data, are used to generate commuting flows, commuting flows and informs our understanding of the interconnectedness between communities.

They also are used to support the delineation of the nation's metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, and they are produced every five years. Every five years, the Census Bureau releases two data products containing the greatest level of statistical detail for

specific population groups. They are the selected population tables by race and ethnicity, which are available for selected race, Hispanic origin, tribal, and ancestry populations.

And the American Indian and Alaska Native tables are available for selected tribal populations with more detailed tribal categories compared to those in the selected population tables. The tables are released approximately every five years in [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov) in the Application Programming Interface or API.

>> Let's take another break for a knowledge check.

>> Which table product allows you to see data on where people commute to and from work? Is it state of residency by place of birth flows, commuting flows, selected population tables, or data profiles? If you said commuting flows, you are correct.

>> Here is what you've learned today.

>> You learned the difference between one year, one-year supplemental, and five-year estimates and where to locate data release information. You learned that you can find a list of ACS data tables and profiles and the variables within them in the table shells on our Table Shells and List page.

You learned we package commonly needed statistics in a variety of products such as data profiles, narrative profiles, subject tables, special table packages, and more. You also learn how to access a data profile using a tool on the ACS website. I hope you found this information helpful.

Our next module covers ACS guidance for data users, which will provide an overview of important resources to help data users when comparing ACS estimates with the previous year's data and with census data. Thank you.

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