2009-2013 CHAS data

These files are a custom tabulation of 2009-2013 ACS data, known as the CHAS, that are provided to HUD grantees for planning and analysis. The files provide information on the conditions and characteristics of housing units and households across the United States.

The data are summarized for eight levels of Census (FIPS) geography: States (040); Counties (050); County Subdivisions (060); Places split by County and County Subdivision boundaries (070); Census tracts (140); Counties split by Place boundaries (155), Places (160); and Consolidated Cities (170). Summary level 080 (split census tracts) has been phased out by Census, so beginning with the 2009-2013 CHAS we have replaced it with summary level 140, which is the standard summary level for census tracts.

At each geographic summary level there are 24 different cross-tabulations (tables). Each table is provided as a separate comma-delimited text file. Within each comma-delimited text file, there is one row for each geographic jursidiction, and columns provide variables describing specific combinations of household characteristics and housing conditions in that jurisdiction. The columns for each table are defined in the attached data dictionary file.

These files have the same structure (layout) as the 2008-2012 CHAS data. The full data dictionary is attached as ‘CHAS data dictionary 09-13.xlsx’. In that spreadsheet, the tab named "All Tables" contains information on every column in all the CHAS tables, spanning the 24 files provided. The header columns vary by geographic level; summary levels 070, which has the largest files, has only source, sumlevel, and geoid as header columns in order to reduce the size of the data files. The subsequent tabs in the data dictionary file focus on each of the 24 tables one at a time, showing only the data columns. These tabs may be more user-friendly, making it easier to filter by the household characteristics and housing conditions contained in columns C through G.

It is important to note that Column type should be used to determine whether it is acceptable to add estimates together. It is generally not appropriate to add a subtotal and a detail. For example, adding T1\_est4 + T1\_est5 would be double counting because T1\_est4 is itself the sum of T1\_est5 through T1\_est11.

For more information about the CHAS data, including an overview of the 24 tables, definitions of commonly used terms, and recommendations for anlaysis, visit the web site of HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research, at: <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/cp.html> or <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/cp/CHAS/bg_chas.html>