

# Connecticut State Data Center

## ◆ Children in Families & Households

- I. Comparability of ACS data
- II. How to Count Children
- III. Guidelines for Success
- IV. Cautions on ACS Reliability
- V. Census Recommends

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## ◆ I. Comparability of ACS data

### A. Limited geographies, above 65,000pop

- ◆ Only urban areas are reported, though publicized widely
- ◆ Towns of 20,000 and 65,000 available Dec. 2008

### B. ACS is successor to Decennial SF3 & SF-4

- ◆ 17% of population answered "Long Form"
- ◆ Looking forward, check ACS against 2010 SF-1 / SF-2 equivalent
- ◆ Census' Estimates office reports Total Population

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## ◆ I. Comparability of ACS data

### C. Advice from Census on using ACS

- ◆ Comparability Grid between '00, '05, '06 and '07  
<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/compACS.htm>  
[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/SF3\\_ACS\\_Table\\_comparison.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/SF3_ACS_Table_comparison.htm)
- ◆ Case Study to help you develop a comparison:  
[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/COMPARISON\\_CASE\\_STUDIES.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/COMPARISON_CASE_STUDIES.pdf)

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## II. How to Count Children

### A. Counting Children not well documented

- ◆ Decennial and ACS mix Universes in Table names
  - Families, HHs, people
  - The ACS comparison (B090xx) that previously showed children now shows “Household type” tables
- ◆ Census 2000-SF3 has 3 primary tables to count children specifically : P16, P56, PCT56AtoI
- ◆ ACS 2007 has 8 tables in their “Children” category

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## ◆ II. How to Count Children

### B. Comparing Census 2000-SF1 to ACS

- ◆ Work from 2000-SF1 (100% data) rather than SF-3
  1. 2000-SF1's P12 "Sex by Age" has ages in the 5-year increments found in ACS's B-01001 **(See Excel.2)**
  2. 2000-SF1 P29 is a full HH profile for children >18, including "own children" and "not-related children"
    - a. ACS2005 – B09001 maintained this full structure
    - b. ACS2006 and 2007 broke B09001 into "component parts" that do not easily add up to the ">18 total"

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## ◆ III. Guidelines for Problem Solving

- Example 1: Discrete categories for Children " $> 18$ "
  - ◆ "Own Children" in Families (By Birth)
  - ◆ "Related Children" in Families (by Marriage or Adoption)
  - ◆ Householders who are themselves under 18 years
  - ◆ Children in non-family Households ( Foster Children, etc.)
  - ◆ Children in Group Quarters: University Dorms, Group Homes, Corrections, Long-Term Nursing, and the Homeless
  - ◆ See **Excel # 4**.

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## ◆ III. Guidelines for Problem Solving

- Be sure to account for all categories on previous slide; ACS break-up of the data makes this difficult
  - ◆ An example, B09001 in 2005 has full categories;
  - ◆ B09001 in 2006 and 2007 is only “children in Households”; you can subtract “children in Families” from “Total children in Households” to get “children in non-Family HHs”
  - ◆ “Own Children”, a prevalent category for ACS, does not include all Related children in a Family
  - ◆ Use B01001 (Sex by Age) for all Children **(Excel.2)**

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## ◆ III. Guidelines for Problem Solving

### ■ Example 2: Children in Poverty Households

- ◆ “Population for whom Poverty status can be determined” is often not Total “>18” Population of a Town, so the count for children will not sum
- ◆ Federal Poverty Guidelines define Poverty for Individuals and Family units, so “non Related children” cannot be determined to live in poverty:  
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/povdef.html#5>

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## ◆ III. Guidelines for Problem Solving

- Example 3: Children in Female Head of HH
  - ◆ A. Expected data sources (Excel #5.)
    - Set a standard for number of children first (see Ex. 1)
    - Looking for “Household Type” not just “Own Children”
    - B09005 (2006 and 2007) have children in Household Types, but without age ranges, in 2005’s B09001.

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## III. Guidelines for Problem Solving

- Example 4: ACS and Ethnicity
  - ◆ Census numbers add to > 100% (Excel.6)
    - Hispanics cause the “double count” since they can be any race
    - For CtSDC, Orlando Rodriguez uses SF-2 (and SF-4 in 2000) to gather as much specificity as possible
    - Ask your organization to set its own Policy for Ethnic groups (see next slide for one way to allocate).

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## ◆ III. Guidelines for Problem Solving

### ■ Example 4: ACS and Ethnicity

- ◆ In ACS, there is a single "Data Set" w/ options

- "Sex by Age", "Median Age by Sex" , etc.
- This is actually a separate topic

- ◆ A Sample model from CtSDC:

- + All Hispanic or Latino (not White) {Census ###-H}
- + White alone not Hispanic {Census ###-I}
- : Rather than "White Alone" {Census ###-A}
- + Black (not Hispanic)
- + Asian (not Hispanic)
- + Other (not Hispanic) {= Total minus above four categories}

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## IV. Cautions on ACS Reliability

A. Margin of Error is so broad that comparability is almost meaningless

Example for >18 in Hartford, '05, '06, '07

a. 2007est:	31,679 +/- 3,894	13.8%
b. 2006est:	30,971 +/- 3,655	11.8%
c. 2005est:	33,196 +/- 4,570	12.3%
d. 2000 SF-1	36,568	

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## ◆ IV. Cautions on ACS Reliability

### B. Margin of Error concerns (part 2)

-- Group Quarters >18 in Hartford:

- a. 2005est: Not surveyed.
- b. 2006est: 88 +/- 30
- c. 2007est: 144 +/- 23
- d. CtSDC believes approx. 512 GQ >18 in Hartford

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## ◆ IV. Cautions on ACS reliability

C. ACS has not reached its own “Margin of Error” Goal of approx. 5%

- ◆ For example, Census estimates >18 in Hartford in 2007 as 31,679 +/- 3,894
- ◆ This is +/- 13.8%, or a total variation of 27.6%
- ◆ This means the “actual” can be anywhere within this span, from 27,785 up to 35,573; that’s what the statistical basis means.

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## ◆ V. Census Recommends:

- ◆ PUMS (Public Use Microdata Sample) 1% and 5% are available on the FactFinder data download
  - 1.25 million “household” and 3.0 million “person” records
  - About 40% of final sample, with all housing/person items
- ◆ Census recommends their [Custom Tabulations](#) program, when you need specific data in a geography that is not within standard download
  - [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/spec\\_tabs/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/spec_tabs/)

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## ◆ Contact Information

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