Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) Special Tabulation
From the 2008-2012 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS)

Background

This is a special tabulation of data providing data on the citizen voting age population and other data from the 2008_2012 5-year American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is the replacement for the decennial census long form. This is the fourth release of this special tabulation of ACS data. The first used the 2005-2009 5-year ACS data, the second used the 2006-2010 5-year ACS data, and the third used the 2007-2011 5-year ACS data. Data from all four releases are available on the Census Bureau's Redistricting Office web site, www.census.gov/rdo. The data in this tabulation were collected in the American Community Survey between 2008 and 2012.

The American Community Survey is an ongoing survey that provides data every year -- giving communities the current information they need to plan investments and services. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than $400 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. To help communities, state governments, and federal programs, we ask about a variety of topics, including age, race, ethnicity, and citizenship. For more information on the American Community Survey, go to www.census.gov/acs.

Format

The data are available in two formats: in SAS data sets or in CSV (comma-separated values) format. SAS is a statistical analysis software package, and CSV files can be read into a large number of software programs such as Excel or Access. Note that in the CSV files, the variable name is the first row in the file. The files are named the same and are in the same format as they were in the 2006-2010 5-Year and 2007-2011 5-Year CVAP releases.

Table Names

There are seven tables in this data release, grouped by geographic summary level. The file names are:

- Nation (summary level 010)
- State (summary level 040)
- County (summary level 050, based on boundaries as of January 1, 2012)
- Place (summary level 160, based on boundaries as of January 1, 2012)
- MCD (Minor Civil Division, summary level 060, for the 12 strong MCD states: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT, MI, WI, NJ, NY, MN, and PA, based on boundaries as of January 1, 2012)
- Tract (summary level 140; note that these are 2010 Census tracts)
- BlockGr (summary level 150; note that these are 2010 Census block groups)

Table Contents

Each file contains the following variables:

- GEONAME: The name of the geographic area, like “United States”, “New Hampshire”, or “Houghton County, Michigan”

- LNTITLE: The description of the line, such as “Not Hispanic or Latino” or “Asian and White”. Note that the race groups under “Not Hispanic or Latino” only include people who are not Hispanic or Latino, so “Asian and White” includes non-Hispanic Asians and Whites.

- GEOID: This is the identification number of the geographic area for this line:

File	GEOID format
Nation	01000US
State	04000USss, where ss = two-digit state FIPS code
County	05000USssccc, where ss = two-digit state FIPS code and ccc = three-digit county FIPS code
Place	16000USsspppppp, where ss = two-digit state FIPS code and ppppp = five-digit place FIPS code
MCD	06000USssccccmmmmm, where ss = two-digit state FIPS code, ccc = three-digit county FIPS code, and mmmmm = five-digit MCD FIPS code. Note that while it is rare, an MCD can be in two counties in a state. To get the whole MCD, you must add together the parts of the MCD that are in each county.
Tract	14000USsscccttttttt, where ss = two-digit state FIPS code, ccc = three-digit county FIPS code, and ttttt = six-digit tract code
BlockGr	15000USsscccttttttb, where ss = two-digit state FIPS code, ccc = three-digit county FIPS code, ttttt = six-digit tract group code, and b = one-digit block group code

- LNNUMBER: This is the number for the line in the table:

LNTITLE	LNNUMBER
Total	1
Not Hispanic or Latino	2
American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	3
Asian Alone	4
Black or African American Alone	5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Alone	6
White Alone	7
American Indian or Alaska Native and White	8
Asian and White	9
Black or African American and White	10
American Indian or Alaska Native and Black or African American	11
Remainder of Two or More Race Responses	12
Hispanic or Latino	13

- TOT_EST: The rounded estimate of the total number of people for that geographic area and group. (Not available for tracts or block groups.)

- TOT_MOE: The margin of error for the total number of people for that geographic area and group. (Not available for tracts or block groups.)

- ADU_EST: The rounded estimate of the total number of people 18 years of age or older for that geographic area and group. (Not available for tracts or block groups.)

- ADU_MOE: The margin of error for the total number of people 18 years of age or older for that geographic area and group. (Not available for tracts or block groups.)

- CIT_EST: The rounded estimate of the total number of United States citizens for that geographic area and group

- CIT_MOE: The margin of error for the total number of United States citizens for that geographic area and group.

- CVAP_EST: The rounded estimate of the total number of United States citizens 18 years of age or older for that geographic area and group.

- CVAP_MOE: The margin of error for the total number of United States citizens 18 years of age or older for that geographic area and group.

Notes

- The total number of citizens (CIT_EST) and its margin of error (CIT_MOE) were not included in the 2005-2009 5-Year CVAP tabulation, but have been included with each subsequent release.

- The estimates from the ACS are based on a sample survey and hence are subject to sampling error. An approximate 90 percent confidence interval for each estimated count is given by (CVAP_LO and CVAP_HI), where CVAP_LO = MAX(0, CVAP_EST - CVAP_MOE) and CVAP_HI = CVAP_EST + CVAP_MOE, and CVAP_MOE is the margin of error provided in the CVAP table. Note that to avoid negative counts, which are logically impossible, the lower limit, CVAP_LO is set to zero when the CVAP_MOE is greater than CVAP_EST, as can happen in areas where the ACS sample is small. (In fact we know the lower limit is bounded below by the number of cases in the ACS sample, but this detail is ignored to keep tables concise.) The interval based on the margin of error is an approximate 90 percent confidence interval, and its coverage of the true value can deviate from the nominal level of 90 percent, particularly when the ACS sample size is small. Nevertheless, it gives an indication of the sampling error associated with the estimate.

- Because this is a special tabulation of data and not part of the standard data products shown on the Census Bureau's American Factfinder web site, these estimates are rounded. Estimates between 1 and 7 are rounded to 4 and estimates 8 and higher are rounded to the nearest 5. Therefore, the detail may not exactly add to the total. For example, the sum of each of the race groups for non-Hispanics may not be the same as the estimate given for non-Hispanics.

- These estimates will not match counts from the 2010 Census. The ACS data were collected for and represent the five-year period from 2008 to 2012, and the Census data represent April 1, 2010.

- There are cases where the margin of error is missing (a "." in SAS or blank in the CSV files). Those are situation where the estimate is controlled to the Population Estimates and therefore there is no sampling error.

Questions

If you have any questions about these files, please contact the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Office at (301) 763-4039.