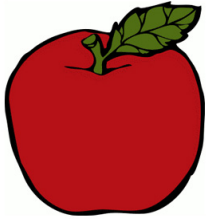
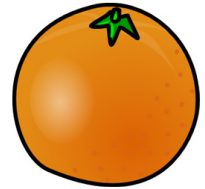


UNDERSTANDING U.S. CENSUS DATA RELEASES

When is it best to use the Current Population Survey
or the American Community Survey?



CPS vs. ACS



RELEASED SEPT. 17

RELEASED SEPT. 19

WE RECOMMEND USING THE CPS FOR:

NATIONAL & STATE-LEVEL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE DATA

Key Facts about the CPS:

- Data only available for U.S. and States
- Asks: whether the person had health insurance at any time during 2012
 - “Uninsured” = no health insurance for all of 2012
 - “Insured” = had health insurance at any point in the year, even for a short period of time. Subcategories include:
 - Private insurance = employment-based coverage, union-based coverage, or insurance purchased independently from an insurance company.
 - Government insurance = insurance through public insurance programs (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP), or any military-based healthcare (i.e., TRICARE, VA, or other military health care).
- Data over time: 1987-2012

WE RECOMMEND USING THE ACS FOR:

HEALTH INSURANCE DATA FOR STATE AND SUB-STATE AREAS OF 65,000 OR MORE

Key Facts about ACS Health Insurance Data:

- Health insurance coverage data for states, as well as geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more (including 50 Texas counties, all U.S. Congressional Districts, and all 25 Texas metropolitan areas)
- Asks: whether individuals had health insurance at the time they were surveyed
 - “Uninsured” = didn’t have insurance at the time survey was completed
 - “Insured” = had insurance at the time survey was completed. Subcategories include:
 - Private = employment- or union-based coverage, insurance purchased independently from an insurance company, or TRICARE or other active military health care coverage.
 - Public = coverage through public insurance programs (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP), or through the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- For the first time this year, the ACS will have data on health insurance for all geographies (down to census tracts) with the December 2013 release of the 5-year averaged data.

NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL-LEVEL POVERTY AND INCOME DATA

Key Facts about the ACS Population, Income, and Poverty Data:

- Population data
 - Average family size
 - Poverty rates by age, race/ethnicity, gender, and educational attainment
 - Median income for families or non-family households, and by race/ethnicity or age
 - Housing costs as a percentage of income
- Data available for the state, as well as geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more, including:
 - 50 Texas counties,
 - all U.S. Congressional Districts, and
 - all 25 Texas Metropolitan Areas
- Data over time: 2001-2012