

PAA 2006 Abstract Submission: Extended Abstract

How Well Do They Compare?: Selected Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population from the 2004 American Community Survey and the 2005 Current Population Survey

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The Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) is a high quality source of information used to produce official annual estimates of income and poverty, and estimates of a number of other socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, including health insurance coverage, school enrollment, marital status, and family structure on the national level. Until 2005, CPS ASEC data were the primary data utilized to produce the statistics presented in the annual report on the foreign-born population. However, with the full implementation of the American Community Survey (ACS) in 2005, more reliable, subnational level figures on the foreign-born population will be available.

The American Community Survey will be the largest household survey in the United States. Like the decennial census long form it is designed to replace, the ACS provides annual labor force estimates for small geographic areas - most cities, counties, and metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more during the testing phase, and, beginning in 2010, the ACS will use multi-year averages to provide estimates for all areas down to census tracts/block groups. Estimates for the nation and states are also available. All ACS estimates are updated annually.

As the ACS becomes another source for annual information on the foreign-born population, it is essential to evaluate its comparability to the ASEC estimates and the benefits of each dataset in estimating and reporting statistics on the foreign-born population. Because of its detailed questionnaire and its experienced interviewing staff,

the CPS ASEC is a highly relied upon data source to produce estimates of basic demographic characteristics of the foreign-born population. However, data gathered from the ACS will come from a much larger sample and provide more reliable information on the foreign born at the subnational level. This poster will address the comparability of these two datasets as well as their differences (e.g. parental place of birth, which can be found in the CPS, but not the ACS). The table below provides a brief overview of the two surveys and the topics that will be presented:

Topic	American Community Survey	Current Population Survey
Principal Purpose	Replace decennial census long form by providing annual (or multi-year average) estimates of selected social, economic, and housing characteristics of the population for many geographic areas and subpopulations.	Produce specific socioeconomic and demographic estimates for the United States, and estimates for states for selected characteristics and subpopulations.
Geography	Nation, states, and cities and counties of 250,000 or more. Eventually, areas as small as census tracts using multi-year averages.	Nation, regions, and states for selected characteristics.
Sample Size	About 800,000 addresses per year during the testing phase (2000-2004); about 3 million housing units per year starting in 2005. Data are collected from about one-twelfth of the sample each month.	Annual sample size is approximately 100,000 addresses.
Data Collection Method	Mail, telephone, and personal-visit interviews for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. About half the responses are obtained by mail. The ACS is a mandatory survey.	Telephone and personal-visit interviews for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The CPS is a voluntary survey.
Residency Status	The ACS includes people at the address where they are at the time of the survey if they have been there, or will be there, more than 2 months, whether or not they have a "usual residence elsewhere."	The CPS sample unit's householder (one of the people in whose name the unit is rented or owned) must consider the unit to be his or her place of usual residence (where he or she spends most of the time during the year) to be counted as an occupied unit, which is traditional in most censuses and housing surveys. If a family has more than one home, the interviewer has to determine if the sample unit is its usual residence.

Topic	American Community Survey	Current Population Survey
Population Universe	<p>The testing phase of the ACS includes the household population. This universe includes both the civilian and military population in households and excludes the group quarters population. The ACS includes both the household and the group quarters populations (that is, the resident population). The group quarters population consists of the institutionalized (such as people in correctional institutions or nursing homes) and the noninstitutionalized (most of whom are in college dormitories). The weighting is controlled to population estimates as of July 1 (e.g., July 1, 2003 for the 2003 ACS).</p>	<p>The CPS ASEC includes the civilian noninstitutionalized population. This universe includes civilians in households, people in noninstitutional group quarters (other than military barracks) and military in households living off post or with their families on post (as long as at least one household member is a civilian adult). The universe excludes other military in households and in group quarters (barracks), and people living in institutions. The weighting is controlled to population estimates as of March 1 (e.g., March 1, 2004 for the 2004 CPS ASEC).</p>
Question Detail	<p><b>Place of Birth (POB)</b>  -Q7 (1st question in "PERSON" section):  Where was this person born?  ___ In the United States - Print name of state.  ___ Outside the United States - Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.</p> <p><b>U.S. Citizenship Status (CIT)</b>  -Q8 (2nd question in "PERSON" section):  Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?  ___ Yes, born in the United States  ___ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas  ___ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents  ___ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization  ___ No, not a citizen of the United States</p> <p><b>Year of Entry (YOE)</b>  -Q9 (3rd question in "PERSON" section):  When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.  YEAR ____</p>	<p><b>Place of Birth</b>  In what country were you born?  ___ (Open ended. Interviewer codes response according to code list)</p> <p>In what country was your mother born?  ___ (Open ended. Interviewer codes response according to code list)</p> <p>In what country was your father born?  ___ (Open ended. Interviewer codes response according to code list)</p> <p><b>U.S. Citizenship Status</b>  Are you a CITIZEN of the United States?  ___ Yes  ___ No, not a citizen</p> <p>Were you born a citizen of the United States?  ___ Yes  ___ No</p> <p>Did you become a citizen of the United States through naturalization?  ___ Yes  ___ No</p> <p><b>Year of Entry</b>  When did you come to live in the United States?  ___ (Open ended. Interviewer codes response as it is given.)</p>