

## Interpreting the Data: Factors to Consider

- Universe and residence rules
- Time Periods
- Reference Periods

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## 2006 ACS Universe

- Total resident population of the United State and Puerto Rico
- Household population in 2005 and prior ACS years
- Group Quarters population added to sample in 2006

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## Residence Rules

- Resident of a housing unit if a person
  - Lives there year round
  - Lives there more than 2 months but not year round
  - Is living there now with no other place to live
  - Is away now for 2 months or less
- Not a resident of a housing unit if a person
  - Lives there 2 months or less with another residence
  - Is away now for more than 2 months

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## ACS Produces Period Estimates

- Describes the characteristics of an area over a specific period of time
- Contrasts with point-in-time estimates that describe the characteristics of an area on a specific date

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## Reference Periods

- ACS uses the interview date as the single reference point, or as the end of a reference period, for all data collection.

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## Group Quarters

- Two types of group quarters:
  1. Institutional – for example, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and mental hospitals
  2. Non-institutional – for example, college dormitories, military barracks, group homes and shelters
- Group Quarters Population includes all people not living in households
  - This term includes those people residing in group quarters as of the date the ACS was conducted

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