

Q&A on CTPP Snapshot Webinar, March 11, 2010

The recording of the webinar is available at: <http://fhwa.na3.acrobat.com/p49415023/>
It will be moving to CTPP website at AASHTO during the week of March 15:
<http://ctpp.transportation.org>

Note: For general questions about CTPP, please contact Penelope Weinberger at pweinberger@ashto.org or Melissa Chiu at Melissa.c.chiu@census.gov

For TAZ delineation related questions, and technical assistance on using the CTPP2000, please contact Liang Long liang.long@dot.gov

Category A. CTPP PROFILE Sheets:

a. Link to Transportation Profile

Q. Where are the profiles?

A. The transportation profiles are on the AASHTO CTPP page:
<http://ctpp.transportation.org/Pages/profiles.aspx>

b. Update Profiles with Newer ACS

Q. Will new profiles incorporating 2008 and 2009 ACS data be created?

A. We have not yet decided. The profile sheets using 2005-2007 ACS standard tabulations were a stop gap measure because the CTPP 3-year product was delayed.

c. Profiles for Areas with less than 20,000 Population

Q: Can I link several places with less than 20,000 to get a profile? Will we be able to get the transportation profile for areas under 20,000 at some point?

A. The current transportation profile using ACS 2005-2007 data is only available for areas with more than 20,000 population. Areas under 20,000 have to wait for 5-year data accumulation and 2005-2009 5-year ACS data will be out in December, 2010, but as discussed above, we have not decided whether or not to make new profile sheets to cover additional geographic areas.

Category B. CTPP 3-year (2006-2008 ACS)

Q. What are the 12 states with MCD?

A. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Q. Will there be a process to update/verify employment data as with the "Work-up" effort back in 2000?

A. No, there will be no “Work-up” program for 2010. Census Bureau does ongoing geocoding of place of work with the ACS.

Q: What level of geography needs to be above 20,000?

A. Counties, Places, PUMA, MSA etc.

Category C. ACS General

a. Response Rates and Quality Issues.

Q. I’ve worked with PUMA ACS and am concerned about the large percentage of records with imputed data items. What does this say about the accuracy of the CTPP data?

A. Yes, the sample size of the ACS, even after many years accumulation is much smaller than decennial census long form, but Elaine and Melissa think the imputation rates are smaller in ACS than in Census 2000 long form.

Q: What is the non-response rate on ACS?

A: Please look at the Census Bureau’s webpage:

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/acs-php/quality_measures_sample_2008.php

b. Journey to Work Questions

Q: Does CTPP provide non-work trips?

A. No, the questions on the ACS form are limited to the journey-to-work.

Q. Will vanpool be considered as a carpool?

A. Vanpool is not a separate category. It will show up in a carpool category.

Category D. TAZ Delineation

a. Schedule

Q. When will CTPP staff request TAZ GIS shape files?

A. Summer 2011.

b. TAZ and TAD Recommended Population

Q. Our TAZs are targeted around 120 Households--about 3 per Census Block Group for us. Issues this may cause?

A. If your TAZs are too small, you will not get any CTPP data. It will all be suppressed. This is why the NCHRP 08-79 project is very important, because we are trying to develop a method to get data for small geography.

Q: With the 1,200 population recommendation, how do we address TAZs that are more employment based (e.g., shopping malls, commercial corridors) when doing the TAZ delineation, so the data isn't suppressed and not useful?

A: The 1,200 population is not just for residential population, but also for worker estimates.

Q: Would TAZs make up TADs?

A: TAZs will nest with TADs.

Q: What will be the use of TADs? Do we need to delineate TAD?

A: The concept for adding TADs is that the ACS 3-year tabulation is limited to geographic areas with 20,000 population or over. In the future, the TAD could potentially be used as an ACS 3-year tabulation geography.

c. GIS Equivalency Process

Q: Can I use Census Block Groups for my TAZs?

A: Yes.

Q: What geographic units can I use to build TAZs?

A: The TAZ software will include the ability to use Census 2000 TAZs, and 2010 Census tracts, block groups and blocks, as building blocks for TAZs.

d. TAZ Delineation is not required

Q: Can an MPO model have TAZs which differ from the CTPP TAZs?

A: Yes. The CTPP TAZs can be different from those from your models. For example, for CTPP2000, there were some areas chose census tracts or block groups for tabulation, and did not define TAZs for submission to the Census Bureau for CTPP.

e. TAZ agency responsibility

Q: Who is the State DOT contact for TAZs in my state?

A: We asked each State DOT to identify the leading agency for each county/independent city for TAZ delineation. Once we have complete TAZ agency responsibility information, the Census Bureau will be working with MPOs and State DOTs on TAZ field work. Please contact Liang Long at liang.long@dot.gov, 202-366-6971, for any questions on the assignment of TAZ responsibilities.

Q: Do MPOs and DOT's delineate TAZs, or just one or the other?

A: That decision is being made at the State level. There will be only one leading agency for each county/independent city, either MPO or State DOT. Generally speaking, if the MPOs want to define the TAZ, then they take charge.

Category E. LEHD source

Q: What is the LEHD program?

A. LEHD stands for longitudinal Employment and Household Dynamics. LEHD official website is: <http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/> You can also read the article by Elaine, written in 2007 to learn more about the LEHD program although some of it may be out-of-date. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/census/lehdonthemap.htm> Another resource is the NCHRP 08-36 Task 81 report: <http://144.171.11.40/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=2403>

Category F. CTPP 5-year (2006-2010 ACS)

- Q: It sounds like usable TAZ-to-TAZ tables are not going to be available. Even if they are, they won't be reliable. You might want to consider providing only TAD-to-TAD data.
- A. We are optimistic that TAZ-to-TAZ will be part of the CTPP 5-year tabulation. This is why the NCHRP 08-79 project is so important, because we are trying to have a method to provide useable data for small geography.
- Q: How reliable are CTPP part 3 OD tables in TAZ levels. In NYMTC area, the TAZ is almost equivalent to census tract levels; however, because of the disclosure rules, table cells cannot contain counts below 3. As you know, the sample of ACS is 3,000,000 a year. 15 million for 5 yrs is of course lower than decennial census long form. What would make the ACS results more reliable?
- A. Increasing the sample size and a higher response rate would improve the data quality of the ACS and its use for the CTPP.
- Q: For workplace geocoding, will there be any possibility of MPOs obtaining that geocoded data from Census Bureau?
- A. To access individual microdata records, you will have to obtain sworn status from the Census Bureau and work inside the Census Bureau. Another way to look at the microdata records is the CB's Research Data Center program, but we have not been successful at using that approach.