

Documentation for the Special Tabulation of American Community Survey (ACS) Poverty for People 60 Years of Age or Older Data for the Administration on Aging

Prepared by ACS Special Studies Staff, December 3, 2013

1) This is a tabulation of ACS data from the 2007-2011 5-year file. The data included in this tabulation were collected between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2011.

2) These data were tabulated at the following geographic summary levels:

- Nation
- State
- County
- County Subdivision/Minor Civil Division (MCD) for 12 “strong MCD” states (CT, ME, MI, MN, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT and WI)
- AoA Planning and Service Areas (PSAs), areas within states defined by AoA and the states.

3) The rounding schematic for all tables is:

- 0 remains 0.
- 1–7 rounds to 4.
- 8 or greater rounds to nearest multiple of 5 (i.e., 864 rounds to 865, 982 rounds to 980).
- Any number that already ends in 5 or 0 stays as is.
- Any totals or subtotals needed should be constructed before rounding. This assures that universes remain the same from table to table, and it is recognized that cells in a table will no longer be additive after rounding.

4) Since this is a tabulation of the percentage of people below poverty, only persons for whom the Census Bureau can determine poverty status (either “in poverty” or “not in poverty”) are included in this tabulation. For some persons, such as unrelated individuals under age 15, poverty status is not defined. Since Census Bureau surveys typically ask income questions to persons age 15 or older, if a child under age 15 is not related by birth, marriage, or adoption to a reference person within the household, we do not know the child's income and therefore cannot determine his or her poverty status. For the American Community Survey, poverty status is also undefined for people living in college dormitories and in institutional group quarters. People whose poverty status is undefined are excluded from Census Bureau poverty tabulations. Thus, the total population in poverty tables—the poverty universe—is slightly smaller than the overall population.