Results of Non-Scientific Survey on the 5-Year ACS Data
Key Issues of Concern Around 5-Year ACS Estimates

- Large sampling errors
- Assessing change over time
- Computing sampling error
- Explaining sampling error
- Accuracy of weights
- Explaining 5-year estimates
- How to choose which estimates to use
Key Opportunities Provided by 5-Year ACS Estimates

- Annually updated data for small areas
- Rich content
- Ability to aggregate data to larger geos
- Ability to modify questionnaire
- Possibility of combining 10 years of data
How Are You Dealing with Sampling Error?

- Present the error values
  - (Sometimes) ignore
  - Combine geographies
  - Suppress unreliable data
  - Validate data against other sources
  - Include cautionary note
  - Downplay differences b/t estimates
  - Pay attention to unweighted counts
  - Still exploring

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Evaluation of ACS Data Products

- New FactFinder is confusing: 4
- Old FactFinder works well: 3
- Like the availability of detailed data: 2
- Huge quantity of data confusing: 2
- Summary Files too cumbersome: 2
- Summary Files work well: 1
- Need built-in statistical calculator: 1
Helpful Resources or Tools

- Online calculator for standard errors
- Online tool to combine geographic areas
- Tout benefits of ACS
- Data Ferrett and user guide
- Forum for data user Q/A
- Examples of best practices
- Follow-up to NAS Report on ACS