

## **Extended Abstract for Poster Session**

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### ***Reaching the Foreign-Born: An Examination of Mode of Response in the American Community Survey***

The American Community Survey (ACS) collects data from respondents via four modes of response: mail, Internet, Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI), and Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Differences in mode of collection have implications both for data quality and collection costs. This paper will present a number of different frequency tables and graphs to examine variation in collection by mode across demographic variables in the 2013 ACS. While important to the overall understanding of mode effects, an examination of causal factors is beyond the scope of this examination. Instead, this paper will demonstrate that mode differences exist and they vary according to major demographic characteristics, especially citizenship and nativity.

This paper will present in detail the differences in response mode by citizenship and nativity. The Internet mode was first used in the ACS in 2013, and this paper places a special emphasis on examining use of the Internet mode of response. After a brief introduction to the ACS, ACS data collection methods, and the concepts of citizenship and nativity, a first series of tables will describe differences in how the native and foreign born answer the ACS by mode. Subsequent tables will examine mode effects in more detail by subdividing each population by major social and demographic characteristics: age, race, Hispanic origin, poverty, and educational attainment. We expect the results to

demonstrate that use of the Internet mode varies significantly across many of these characteristics, especially age and education levels.

The second part of the paper will focus specifically on the foreign-born population. We will examine differences in ACS response between naturalized citizens and non-citizens, as well as differences by country and region of birth, by year of entry into the United States, language spoken at home and ability to speak English, and country and region of birth. We anticipate the results will show that use of the Internet mode by the foreign-born population varies significantly, especially by English proficiency levels. Finally, this research will examine whether there are differences in mode response for the foreign-born across the four major geographic regions in the United States. We will close with a brief examination of possible avenues of future research.