

**American Community Survey Ramp-Up Delay**  
**July 23, 2004**

The U.S. Census Bureau will delay temporarily the ramp-up to full implementation of the American Community Survey (ACS), scheduled to begin in July 2004. This applies to the U.S. and Puerto Rico, where the ACS program is implemented as the Puerto Rico Community Survey. This action is due to current uncertainties in the appropriations process for FY05. Nevertheless, the Census Bureau is still planning to conduct the fully expanded ACS for housing units in 2005. The start of ACS group quarters data collection will be delayed until 2006.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, State, Justice, Judiciary and Related Agencies approved \$146 million for ACS, which is \$81.2 million above the current year, although \$19 million less than the Administration's request. The full House of Representatives voted the same amount for ACS, but the U.S. Senate has not yet acted on the Commerce, State, Justice appropriations bill.

Although the appropriations process will continue for some time, the Census Bureau has decided on this temporary delay as a fiscally prudent measure. The Census Bureau appreciates congressional support for the ACS, and will continue to monitor closely the appropriations process as we consider options on how best to proceed with the ramp-up.

We will continue the current program of mailing the survey to approximately 67,000 households per month. Additionally, this temporary delay will not have an impact on the ACS estimates for 2004.