Release Note: December 15, 2012

ACS Mapping Extensions for ArcGIS (version 4)

Since the release of the third versions of the ACS Mapping extensions for ArcGIS 9.3 and 10.0 in January 2012, many changes have occurred related to the environment of using ACS in ArcGIS, in addition to valuable and constructive feedback and comments we received from the user's community and peers. Versions in this new release of the extensions address issues in several directions:

1) Software environment: Although our last release included a version of the extension for ArcGIS 10.0, ESRI released ArcGIS 10.1 later in the year. Unfortunately, the upgrade to 10.1 was not insignificant to our development at all. Previous release of the extension for 10 does not work in 10.1. The current release includes a new 10.1 version of the extension. Meanwhile, we will stop the development using 9.3. Current release includes extensions for ArcGIS 10.0 and 10.1 only.

2) File handling: previous versions were limited to handle shapefiles, which has a limitation on the number of columns. In the current version, the extensions can handle geodatabases, both the personal and file geodatabases. However, when using a feature class in geodatabase, the tool can merge only one ACS table with the feature class.

3) Feedback and comments from users asked for more functions for comparing estimates on the maps. In this new version, several new functions were developed:

   a. Overlaying CVs as a binary map on the estimates: users can select a CV threshold to indicate, for instance, acceptable vs. unacceptable, to overlay on the choropleth map of estimates.

   b. Binary mapping: users can select a threshold value for any column in the attribute table (estimates, MOEs or CVs) to create a binary map.

   c. Comparing an estimate with estimates in another layer: users can select an estimate on one layer and compare this estimate with estimates on another layer. Results of significant differences will be overlaid onto the second map. In this case, the geographies of the two maps do not need to be identical.

   d. Comparing estimates of the same locations between two layers: users can compare estimates between two layers. In this case, the geographies of the

two layers have to be identical. A new map will be generated to show the differences of estimates, with indications of significant differences.

In previous versions, the installation included installing a documentation file on the local system. In this new release, documentation of the extension or help will be pointed to the on-line documentation file.