

## Counting Housing and the Housing Stock with AHS, CPS, ACS, and HVS

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

12:30–2:00 p.m.

### Opening Remarks

- **Laurie Goodman**, center director, Housing Finance Policy Center, Urban Institute

### Presenters

- **Kurt Usowski**, deputy assistant secretary for economic affairs, US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **Arthur Cresce Jr.**, assistant division chief for housing statistics, US Census Bureau

Kurt Usowski will focus most of his remarks on the American Housing Survey (AHS), sponsored by HUD and collected by the US Census Bureau; the survey captures the size and composition of the housing stock. It is collected nationally every other year (with metropolitan data collected on a rotating basis) and contains information about the types of homes in which people are now living and the characteristics of these homes, as well as the costs of running and maintaining them. Mr. Usowski will go through the collection procedures, the advantages and drawbacks of the data, and the types of questions that this survey can answer.

Arthur Cresce Jr. will focus on the estimates of households produced by the Census Bureau's present surveys: the Current Population Survey/Annual Social and Economic Survey (CPS/ASEC), the Housing Vacancy Survey (HVS, part of the CPS), the AHS, and the American Community Survey (ACS). He will briefly describe each survey and the specific purpose it serves. More important, Mr. Cresce will address an issue of concern to many researchers: the differing estimates of households (occupied housing units) that these surveys produce. He will discuss why these estimates differ and attempts to reconcile these estimates.

## Counting Housing and the Housing Stock with AHS, CPS, ACS, and HVS

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

12:30–2:00 p.m.

### Speaker Biographies



**Kurt G. Usowski**, PhD, is the deputy assistant secretary for economic affairs in HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research. In this capacity he administers a broad housing and urban economic research program with oversight responsibility for HUD's housing market data, including the American Housing Survey and joint HUD and Census data releases on housing construction, multifamily rental absorption, manufactured housing, and rental housing finance; economic research and policy development for housing finance issues including FHA; the development and publication of HUD's subsidized housing program operating parameters including the fair market rents, area median family income estimates, and HUD income limits; research on urban economic development and federal, state, and local public finance issues including the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit databases and HUD's designations of Difficult Development Areas and Qualified Census Tracts for the LIHTC; and direction of HUD's field economist organization. Dr. Usowski has spent his entire career in the Office of Economic Affairs attaining positions of increasing responsibility for research and policy analysis. He earned a bachelor's in economics from the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and a PhD in urban economics from Northwestern University. An active musician, he is principal cellist in the Reston Community Orchestra.



**Arthur Cresce Jr.**, PhD, has had a lifelong devotion to providing high-quality information to the data-user public. He began his professional career at the Census Bureau in 1973, where he worked on the development of data for the Hispanic population, which was a top priority of the Bureau given keen congressional interest in the topic. From 1992 to 1998, Dr. Cresce worked in the Decennial Management Division, participating in the planning for Census 2000. During this time, he served as project manager for the Continuous Measurement Survey, which developed into the American Community Survey. He also served as project manager for a key study to create a pay-rate system that would ensure employment of sufficient human resources to complete critical field work under tight time constraints. He is directly responsible for housing data collected in the decennial census, the American Community Survey, and the Housing Vacancy Survey. Two branches under his supervision are responsible for producing data products for four other housing-specific surveys: the American Housing Survey, the Survey of Market Absorption, the Rental Housing Finance Survey, and the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey. His education includes a bachelor's degree in international affairs from the George Washington University with a strong background in economics, a master's degree in demography from Georgetown University, and a PhD in policy sciences from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, combining the disciplines of demography and economics to assess the impact of public policy on the population.