

Your Community by the Numbers

Accessing the most current and relevant Census data

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Good morning my name is _____ and I am _____ with the Boston Regional Office. Today we are going to learn about census data and how to access it. The workshop is broken down into two segments. The first half is a presentation that explains the various programs the census runs, the data that is released by these programs and the geographies that the data is available for. What many people don't realize is that the census that most people know....the one that's conducted every 10 years....is only one aspect of what we do. You are especially going to enjoy learning about the American Community Survey which will allow you to access new detailed social, economic and housing data for your state, county and community every year, rather than waiting every 10! We're talking about data like income and poverty, education, language, place of birth, commute to work....the real rich data. And that's the main thing we want everyone to take away from this workshop – to know which program or census or survey to use to get the data that you're looking for. The other thing we want you to take away from this is our contact information. We don't expect anyone to remember everything we're going to talk about today so understand that our department's job at the Census is to answer public inquiries and get you to the data you need. So please use our e-mail address and phone number. So let's get started!



What you're looking at here is a screen shot of www.census.gov – the US Census Bureau homepage. There's a lot of great stuff on this page but what we're going to use it for at this workshop is as a gateway to our online data access tool – the American FactFinder. It's circled in this screen shot.

American FactFinder

U.S. Census Bureau

The NEW American FactFinder is now available!

The transition from the legacy American FactFinder to the NEW American FactFinder will continue through the fall of 2011. Data on the legacy FactFinder will be moved to the NEW FactFinder in the coming months. [Frequently Asked Questions »](#)

The legacy American FactFinder will be discontinued in the fall of 2011.

for data from
Census 2010 (beginning in February 2011)
and **Census 2000**
go to
factfinder2.census.gov

for data from the
American Community Survey,
the **Economic Census**
and **Population Estimates**
go to
factfinder.census.gov

[Learn more about the New American FactFinder](#)

When you click on the American FactFinder link from the home page it brings you to this screen. Currently there are two versions of the American FactFinder. The NEW American FactFinder is releasing the 2010 Census data. So if you are looking for data for your state or community from the 2010 Census you are going to be using the NEW FactFinder. The old version – or Legacy – currently includes everything else. All the other data we release besides the 2010 Census data can only be accessed through the Legacy version. Eventually, the data that’s in the Legacy system will be migrated over to the NEW FactFinder. We’re hearing Fall 2011. For now, it is a bit of a curveball because you have to learn how to navigate both systems. But we’ll get through it together! We’re going to revisit this screen at the end of the presentation to explain a bit further which data you can get in which version.

American FactFinder Components

- **Program**
 - Census or Survey
- **Data Sets**
 - Data File
- **Product Type**
 - Table or Map
- **Summary Levels**
 - Geography



Programs

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Bureau
Boston Region

So, like I said, now we're going to look at each of those components in much more detail. We're going to start with 'Programs'

Program

- **Decennial Census**
 - Every 10 years, Counts Residents
- **Population Estimates Program**
 - Official Population Count for the other 9 years
- **American Community Survey (ACS)**
 - Annual Social, Economic and Housing data
- **Other Surveys and Censuses**
 - Economic Census



Program refers to the survey or census that you are interested in. We're going to focus in this workshop on the first three programs listed on this slide – the Decennial Census, the Population Estimates Program and the American Community Survey.

The Decennial Census is the Census 'program' that everyone knows. Whether it's through civics class or by actually receiving and completing the questionnaire. It's the one that's conducted every 10 years and provides a complete count of the residents of the United States.

In regards to the Population Estimates Program, just think of it this way. The Decennial Census is done every 10 years - and that's great – but what about the years in between? Well that's where the Pop Estimates Program comes in. It provides the official census 'count' for the years in between the decennial census.

Now, what is the American Community Survey? I can promise that those of you not familiar with this survey will leave this workshop in love with it. The ACS is a survey we began in 2005 that allows the detailed Social, Economic and Housing data to be released every year, rather than every 10.

We're going to focus on these 3 programs for this workshop, but be aware that the Census conducts a number of other censuses and surveys.

The Economic Census is done every 5 years and provides a 'count' of businesses. You can use the EC to find the number of establishments in an industry, industry sales, number of employees and payroll in your state, your county or your city/town.

The Current Population Survey is a survey we conduct for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This survey provides a lot of data on income, poverty, employment and health insurance and one of it's main tasks is providing the official Unemployment Rate. So any news stories you hear or read regarding the unemployment rate – they are sourcing this survey.

I'll also mention the Consumer Expenditure Survey which provides information on the populations spending habits. This survey is also conducted for the Department of Labor and is used to determine Cost of Living.

And this is only a few Programs that I decided to mention. We also do surveys on Health and Crime and Housing. But again, for this workshop we're going to focus on our 'Big 3' Programs and we'll discuss each of them in detail – and the differences between them – now!

Program (cont.) Decennial Census

- In 2000, 1 in 6 households received the 53 question, 40 page long form

- Detailed social, economic & housing info

- 2010 Census was **Short Form Only!**

- 10 Questions

- 2010 Questionnaire

- Name - Race - Housing
- Sex - Ethnicity Tenure
- Age - Household
 Relationship

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Census
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Boston Region



We'll first talk about the decennial census. First, I want to speak to a big difference in this most recent census in 2010 than in past censuses. The 2010 Census is what we call a 'Short Form' only census. In 2000 (and many prior censuses) one in every six households received the census long form. This long form was about 40 pages long and asked 53 questions. But the data that came from this long form was enormously important for non-profits in grant writing, planners and community officials. It released what we call the 'bread and butter' data: income, poverty, education, language spoken at home, birthplace/nativity and detailed housing stats like value of home and heating fuel used.

This long form is no longer part of the decennial census. But don't worry because we didn't stop collecting this data. We'll talk a bit later about how that data is collected and released.

As we mentioned, the 2010 Census is a 'short form' only! 10 questions....that's it. We had a motto, 10-10-2010 – 10 questions, 10 minutes, 2010 Census! Now I won't lie to you, if you had more than one person in your household it might take a bit more than 10 minutes but 10-13-2010 didn't roll off the tongue as well.

The 2010 Census collected the following information: Name, Sex, Age, Race, Ethnicity, Household Relationship and Tenure (whether you own or rent) - that's it!

Program (cont.)

Population Estimates

Formulated based on latest census number and birth rate, death rate and migration.

Provides annual population and (some) general demographics (age, sex, race and ethnicity)

Data available for Nation, States, Metro Areas, Counties and Cities/Towns

General demographic info available only for Nation, States and Counties (not Metro Areas or Cities/Towns)

OFFICIAL CENSUS COUNT FOR INTERCENSAL YEARS!



With the census happening every 10 years there is obviously a need for more current population information. This is the job that the Population Estimates Program does.

The Pop Estimates Program provides annual population estimates– and in some cases general demographics.

The estimates are formulated using the latest Census population figure and factoring in birth rates, death rates and migration states – both internal and external.

The data is available for the Nation, States, Metro Areas, Counties and Cities/Towns.

The Pop Estimates Program does provide some demographic information – sex, age, race and ethnicity. This demographic information is available only down to the County level. There are no demographic information available at a city or town level through this program. Only population estimates.

So you can use the Population Estimates Program to get population estimates for Boston for 2001, 2004, 2007 or 2008 but you can't get an age breakdown or race breakdown for your community.

You can get an age or race breakdown for all the intercensal years for Suffolk County, the State of Massachusetts and the Nation.

Program (cont.)

American Community Survey (ACS)

- Social and Economic information every year rather than just once a decade
 - Took the place of the census long form (2005)
 - At the start of each month, the questionnaire is mailed to a scientifically selected random sample of households in counties throughout the Nation
 - The Census will continue to conduct a short-form-only Census every 10 years
- NOT A COUNT! VIEW TRENDS!**



Now to the American Community Survey. For all of you data users that were worried about what happened to our 'bread and butter' data fear not! It is now collected by the American Community Survey

The ACS is a monthly survey that allows the detailed social, economic and housing data to be released annually rather than waiting every 10 years. When we refer to detailed social, economic and housing data we're talking about things like income and poverty, education, language, citizenship and place of birth, disability, commute to work....the really rich data. Basically, the Census Bureau realized that this data needed to come out more frequently. If you think about the last few years and the tumultuous economy and housing market, looking at data from 2 years ago is useless to us let alone from 10 years.

The ACS has taken the place of the decennial census long form that we mentioned earlier.

The way it works is that at the start of every month, the questionnaire is mailed out to a random sample of households in every county throughout the Nation. In general, 250,000 per month and 3 million per year.

And it works kind of like jury duty. If your address is in sample for any given month, it will be taken out of sample for at least 5 years and probably longer. However, if you move, I can't promise you won't get it in consecutive months. Remember it's all based on addresses. It's sent to 'Current Resident'. So if you are living at one address say in May and receive the questionnaire and then move, you could receive it at your new address in June.

Program (cont.)
American Community Survey (ACS)
CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE FOR 2009

- Data is currently available for all areas
 - Areas with a population **65,000+**: **1 Year Estimates**
(data avail. for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)
 - Areas with a population **20,000+**: **3-Year Estimates**
(data avail. for 2005-07, 2006-08, 2007-09)
 - Areas **below 20,000** (incl. census tracts & block groups):
5-year estimates 2005-09 (first release 2010)



So what data is available from the ACS? Well, you can tell by the text that there is currently data available from 2009. And as the slide mentions, data is available for all geographic areas.

What you see in the middle of the slide is a sort of data release timeline for ACS. The best way for me to describe this is to start from the beginning of the survey.

The first ACS data release was in 2006. 1-yr estimates – or 12 months of sample – were released for areas with a population of 65,000+. This provided data for most large cities, most counties, all states and the Nation. These large areas have received new 1-yr estimates every year since the 2005 data release. So for a large city like Waterbury, you have annual data for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

In 2008, the Census Bureau began releasing 3-yr estimates – or 36 months of sample – for areas with a population of 20,000+. So in 2008 we got our first 3 yr estimate for the years 2005-2007. And we will receive a new 3 yr estimate every year. In 09 we released a 3 yr estimate for 2006-2008 and we recently released the 3yr estimate 2007-2009. So even though it's a 3yr estimate we will still be able to use the data for what the ACS is intended – to view trends and make comparisons. More on that in a minute.

And finally, this past December, the Census Bureau released data for the remaining geographic areas down to the block group level. (For those of you that aren't familiar with Block groups or census tracts they just allow for more localized data access. We'll talk about them in more detail later in the presentation). These areas of less than 20,000 in population had 5-year estimates – or 60 months of sample – released for them. So the

Search - Use the options on the left (search, topics, geographies, ...) to find the data you're looking for

Your Selections
"Your Selections" is empty

Search within Results for...

Topics ?

- * People
- * Housing
- * Year
- * Product Type
 - Decennial Census (4,406)
 - Population Estimates (35)
- * Dataset

Geographies (states, counties, places,...)

Population Groups (race, ancestry,...)

Search Results: 1-25 of 4,441 per page: 25

ID	Title
<input type="checkbox"/> QT-PL	Race, Hispanic or Latino and Housing Occupancy
<input type="checkbox"/> H1	OCCUPANCY STATISTICS
<input type="checkbox"/> P1	RACE
<input type="checkbox"/> P2	HISPANIC OR LATINO OR NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO

New AFF (factfinder2.census.gov)

Legacy AFF (factfinder.census.gov)

United States Census Bureau
Boston Region

This slide just shows you a screen shot from each of the AFF versions and incorporates where the Program term comes into play. Remember, we're eventually migrating all data from all of our programs over to the NEW AFF but as it stands to day you will need to be familiar with both versions of the AFF

Data Sets



Now we're going to talk about Data Sets. Again, Data Sets refer to the data file that you are pulling the data from. Examples include 2010 Redistricting Data, 2000 Summary File 1, and ACS 2009 1yr Estimate. Let's see all of the Data Sets available.

Data Sets 2010 Census

Redistricting Data (Feb 2011 – April 1, 2011)

- first release of local data from Census 2010; will include total population, age (18+), race, ethnicity, housing units, occupancy/vacancy)

Released - Available Now!

Demographic Profiles (May 2011)

- profiles down to the community level that provide 2010 Census data on age and sex distributions, race, Hispanic or Latino origin, household relationship and type, the group quarters population, and housing occupancy and tenure

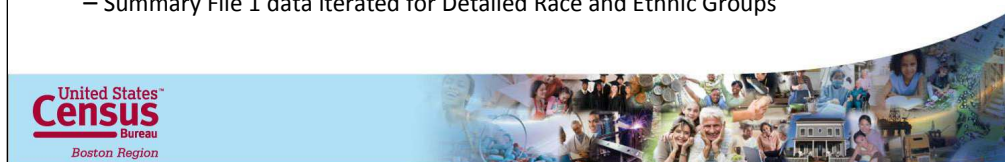
Releasing this month!

Summary File 1 (Summer 2011)

- Household, Family & Relationship data

Summary File 2 (Winter 2011)

- Summary File 1 data iterated for Detailed Race and Ethnic Groups



This slide strictly refers to data sets available from the 2010 Census. The most recent released data set is the Census 2010 Redistricting data. This data is the first community level data. Redistricting data provides total population, age (over 18), race, ethnicity, total housing units and occupancy vs. vacancy statistics down to the **BLOCK** level. That's the smallest level of geography we provide data for – and in an urban area it is generally equivalent to a city block.

This summer we will be releasing the second Data Set from the 2010 Census – Summary File 1. This releases ALL the data collected by the 2010 Census. Not only will you get the data that was released in the Redistricting file, you'll also get data on households and families, relationships, tenure and detailed race and ethnicities. By 'detailed' race and ethnicities we are referring to the specific groups. So instead of Asian as a whole – which can currently be found in the Redistricting data set, SF 1 releases counts of the Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese populations. And instead of Hispanic as a whole – also released in the Redistricting data set, we release counts of the Puerto Rican, Dominican, Cuban and Guatemalan population.

Finally, the other major Census 2010 data set you see on this list is Summary File 2. What Summary File 2 allows you to do is cross reference those detailed race and ethnic groups with the data released in Summary File 1. All SF 1 does is give you counts of these detailed groups. SF 2 allows you to actually see demographic information on these groups. So if you are looking for an age breakdown for the Asian population you will find that in Summary File 1. But if you are looking for an age breakdown for the Chinese, Japanese or Korean population, you would go into Summary File 2. Similarly, if you are looking for the number of Hispanic Households you would look in the Summary File 1 Data Set but if you wanted the number of Puerto Rican or Cuban or Dominican Households you would look at

Census 2010: Summary File 1 (SF1 = 100% Data)

- Household Relationship
- Sex
- Age
- Hispanic or Latino Origin
- Race
- Tenure (own/rent)
- Vacancy characteristics



This slide just reiterates the data that's available in Summary File 1. Actually, you might want to take a look at the handout in your kits that deals with Data Sets. This will serve as a great reference tool for understanding which files to use depending upon the type of data you are looking for.

So, referring to that form, the data released by Summary File 1 is listed in the 'yellow' section. We also refer to this data as '100% data' since it is asked of every household/address in the country. This was the basic demographic information that was asked of all residents. Again, it includes data like sex, age, race, ethnicity, household relationship and tenure (whether you own/rent your house).

Census 2010: Summary File 2 (SF2 = 100% Data)

Summary File 2

Cross references detailed race, ethnic, and ancestry groups with all data subjects in SF1



And this slide just talks about what the Summary File 2 data set includes. Again, it allows us to cross reference the detailed race and ethnic groups with the data released in Summary File 1.

Data Sets

2000 Census

- 2000 Redistricting Data SF (P.L. 94-171)
- 2000 SF 1 100% Data
- 2000 SF 2 100% Data
- **2000 SF 3 Sample Data**
- **2000 SF 4 Sample Data**



You'll notice that a lot of the data sets that were available from Census 2000 are exactly the same as those available in Census 2010. There's the 2000 Redistricting Data data set, as well as, Summary File 1 and Summary File 2. The big difference is that in 2000, data sets Summary File 3 and Summary File 4 were included. These data sets released the data that was collected from the Census long form. If you remember, the long form was the questionnaire that went to approximately 1 in every 6 households and collected the really rich, detailed social, economic and housing data. It's the data that is now collected and released annually by the American Community Survey.

Summary File 3 was the main data set for the long form data. It released all of the data listed in the dark blue section of the Data Sets handout. You'll notice that the data is much more detailed than what is released in SF1. Summary File 4 served the same purpose for SF3 data that Summary File 2 did for SF1 data. It allowed you to cross reference the detailed race and ethnic groups with the data found in Summary File 3. So if you wanted an income breakdown for the Total Population or one of the 6 major race groups you would find that in SF 3. But if you wanted the income breakdown for the Chinese or Vietnamese populations or the Dominican or Colombian ethnicities you would use Summary File 4.

Remember, SF 3 and SF 4 no longer exist. That data is now collected and released in the American Community Survey Data Sets.

Summary File 3 (SF3 = Sample Data)

Detailed Social, Economic, Demographic and Housing Characteristics

□ **Population**

Marital Status, Place of birth, Citizenship, Entry year, School Enrollment/Ed. Attainment, Ancestry, Migration, Language spoken, Veteran status, Disability, Grandparents as caregivers, Labor force status, Place of work, Journey to work, Occupation, Industry, Class of worker, Work status in 1999, Income in 1999, Poverty status

□ **Housing**

Value of home or monthly rent paid, Units in structure, Year structure built, Number of rooms and number of bedrooms, Year moved into residence, Plumbing and kitchen facilities, Telephone service, Vehicles available, Heating fuel, Farm residence, Utilities, Mortgage, Taxes, Insurance and fuel costs

Now collected by the ACS

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This just shows you the actual data items collected and released by SF 3 in 2000. Notice the bottom. "Now collected by the ACS"

Summary File 4 (SF4 = Sample Data)

Summary File 4

Cross references detailed race, ethnic, and ancestry groups with all data subjects in SF3

**Now collected by ACS and available through
Selected Population Profiles**



And this just mentions SF 4 and what type of data is available there.

Data Sets

American Community Survey

2005-2009 ACS 5yr Estimates

2007-2009 ACS 3yr Estimates

2009 ACS 1yr Estimates

2006-2008 ACS 3yr Estimates

2008 ACS 1yr Estimates



So here are a few of the Data Sets from the American Community Survey. The data for the ACS is released by year and by estimate type. You have you're 2005-2009 ACS 5yr Estimate. This would provide ACS data for ALL geographic areas regardless of size. The 2007-2009 3yr Estimate releases the ACS data for areas 20,000 or more in population and the 2009 1yr Estimate release the most current ACS estimates for areas with a population of 65,000 or more. Then I've included the 2006-2008 ACS 3yr Estimate and the 2008 ACS 1yr Estimate Data Sets. Remember, there is no 5yr estimate from the 2008 data. The 2009 ACS data was the first release of a 5yr estimate. But from now on, we'll have a new 5yr estimate every year! The Data Sets will go back to 2005 which is the year we began conducting the American Community Survey.

Now let's imagine you want ACS data for the city of Waterbury. We know it is more than 65,000 in population but which Data Set are you going to use. I think most of use will use the 1yr Estimate Data Set from the given year we are interested in because we want the most current data. Understand that the 5yr Estimates are going to be the more accurate estimate because they are using a 60 month sample rather than a 12 month. So it's entirely up to you to determine which data set to use. In essence you need to figure out which is more important to you – currency or reliability.

Data Sets

Population Estimates Program

2010 Population Estimates

2009 Population Estimates

2008 Population Estimates

2007 Population Estimates

....and so on!



Finally, these are the Data Sets for the Population Estimates Program. I think it's pretty easy to understand. Each estimate year is a different data set. If you wanted the 2007 estimate for your state you would go into the '2007 Population Estimates' data set.

Data Sets

Search - Use the options on the left (search, topics, geographies, ...) to find the data you're looking for

Your Selections
Your Selections is empty

Search within Results for...

Topics

- People
- Housing
- Year
- Program
- Dataset

2010 Redistricting Data SF (PL 94-171) (27)
2008 Population Estimates (35)
2000 SF 1 100% Data (60)
2000 SF2 100% Data (185)
2000 SF3 Sample Data (1,102)
2000 SFA Sample Data (564)
2000 Redistricting Data SF (PL 94-171) (11)

ID	Title	Dataset
QT-PL	Race, Hispanic or Latino, Age, and Housing Occupancy, 2010	2010 Redistricting Data SF (PL 94-171)
H1	OCCUPANCY STATUS	2010 Redistricting Data SF (PL 94-171)
P1	RACE	2010 Redistricting Data SF (PL 94-171)
P2	HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO	2010 Redistricting Data SF (PL 94-171)

New AFF (factfinder2.census.gov)

U.S. Census Bureau
American FactFinder

POPULATION FINDER
FACT SHEET
PEOPLE
HOUSING
BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT
ABOUT THE DATA
DATA SETS
DECENNIAL CENSUS
AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
PUERTO RICO COMMUNITY SURVEY
ANNUAL POPULATION ESTIMATES
ECONOMIC CENSUS
ANNUAL ECONOMIC SURVEYS
DOWNLOAD CENTER
MAPS
TOOLS AND REFERENCES

DECECNIAL

Census 2000 | 1990 Census

The Decennial Census occurs every 10 years, in years ending in zero, to count the population and housing units for the entire United States. Its primary purpose is to provide the population counts that determine how seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are apportioned. [more...](#)

Other Resources

- Census 2000 Gateway
- Count Question Resolution (PDF - 45 KB)
- Census 2000 Notes and Errata (PDF - 2.4 MB)
- Census 2000 SF 1 - SF 4 Data Corrections in American FactFinder
- Download Center
- Download data sets via FTP

2000

- Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data
Summary File 1 presents counts and information (age, sex, race, Hispanic/Latino origin, household relationship, whether residence is owned or rented) collected from all people and housing units.
- Census 2000 Summary File 2 (SF 2) 100-Percent Data
Population and housing characteristics listed for many details (race, Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes).

Select from the following:
Detailed Tables
Geographic Comparison Tables
Quick Tables
Thematic Maps
Reference Maps
Custom Table
Enter a table number
List all tables

Legacy AFF (factfinder.census.gov)

United States Census Bureau
Boston Region

So here are the two screen shots that point out where the 'Data Sets' selection is in each system. You can see that in the NEW AFF the 'Data Set's is also in the 'Topics'. Again, I wouldn't worry too much about these slides as we are going to go live onto the site later in the workshop.

Product Type



Real quick, 'Product Type' refer to the type of Table – or in some cases maps – that you want to see

Product Type

Data Profile

Demographic, Social, Economic and Housing

Detailed Table

Most detailed info. Multiple geo's and multiple tables

Geographic Comparison Table

One data item for multiple geographies

Quick Table

Predefined tables on select data item



There are 4 main Product Types that we are going to be dealing with in this workshop – Data Profiles, Detailed Tables, Geographic Comparison Table and Quick Table.

A Data Profile releases the data into 4 separate characteristics – Social, Economic, Housing and Demographic. These are the easiest tables to access but provide the least detailed data. Now this is by no means meant to sway you from these profiles because I can promise you that the majority of the data you will be trying to access a Data Profile will suffice. An example of a Data Profile for the city of Boston is included in your kits. One of the drawbacks to the Data Profiles is you can only choose one Geography at a time.

Detailed Table are exactly that – the most detailed tables available through the FactFinder. These tables are where you'll also find all the race and ethnic cross references. Detailed Tables allows for the selection of multiple geographies and multiple tables at the same time.

Geographic Comparison Table allow you to compare one data time for a huge number of geographies. If you wanted to see the Median Income for all cities and towns in Massachusetts, you would use a Geographic Comparison Table. If you wanted to see the % of persons that Speak a Language Other than English in every Census Tract in your County you would use a GCT.

Quick Tables are predefined tables that provide information on one data subject. They include a bit more detail than the profiles but you can only choose one data subject and one geography.

Product Type

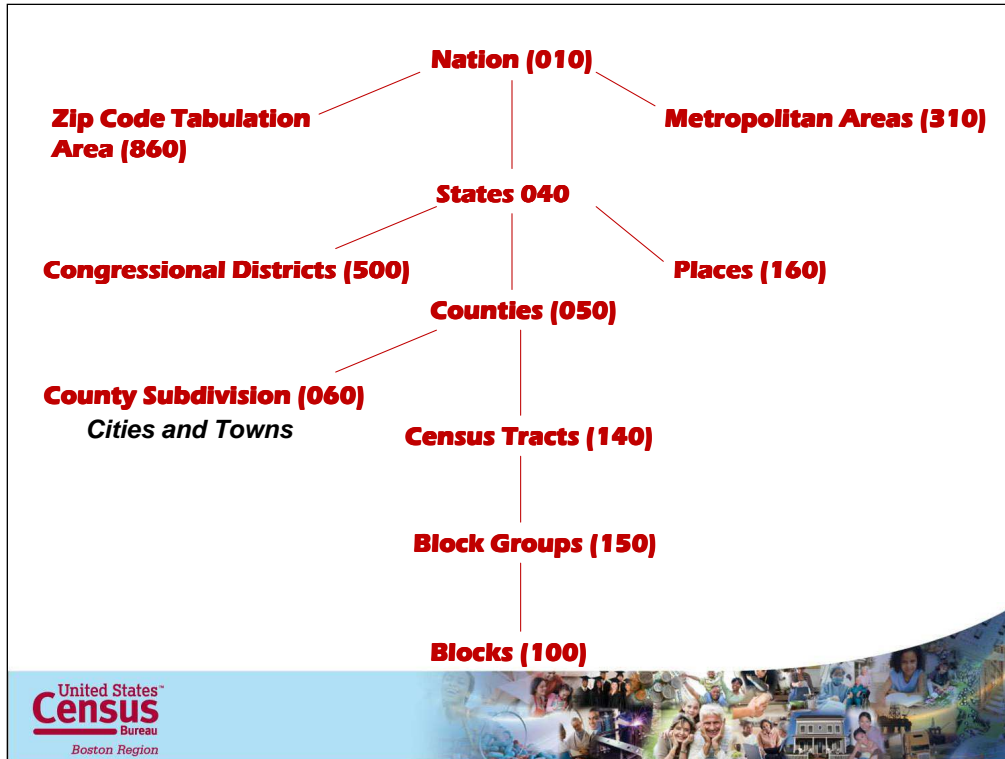
The screenshot displays the U.S. Census Bureau FactFinder interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'MAIN', 'SEARCH', 'WHAT WE PROVIDE', 'USING FACTFINDER', 'Feedback', 'FAQs', 'Glossary', and 'Help'. Below this, a search instruction reads: 'Search - Use the options on the left (search, topics, geographies, ...) to find the data you're looking for'. The left sidebar contains 'Your Selections' (empty) and 'Search within Results for...'. The 'Topics' section is expanded, showing a list of categories: People, Housing, Year, and Product Type (21). The 'Product Type' category is circled in orange. Below this list, a red text label reads 'New AFF (factfinder2.census.gov)'. The main content area shows search results for 'Race, Hispanic or Latino, Age, and Housing Occupancy, 2010'. A table lists results with columns for ID and Title. The 'American Community Survey' is highlighted in the left sidebar. A red text label below the sidebar reads 'Legacy AFF (factfinder.census.gov)'. The right sidebar contains 'Other Resources' and 'Select from the following' options, with 'Product Type' circled in orange. The bottom of the page features the 'United States Census Bureau Boston Region' logo and a collage of diverse people.

This shows you where the Product Type selections are in each system. Again, in the NEW AFF you'll see that the Product Types are listed in the same 'Topics' section as our last two components – Programs and Data Sets.

Summary Level: Geography



Our Final Component we're going to discuss today is the Summary Levels. Anytime you hear or see the term 'Summary Level' just think of one thing – Geography.



So let's take a minute or two to talk about Census Geography.

You're looking at the Census geography hierarchy. These are the Geographic Areas for which Census Data is available.

At the top we have the Nation.

Next comes States and Counties which are pretty self explanatory.

You want to pay particular attention to the areas off to the right and left in this section – Places and County Subdivisions. You'll notice that you won't really see any mention of 'Cities' and 'Towns' as you use the FactFinder. Well Places and County Subdivisions are Census Jargon for cities and towns. There are pretty detailed definitions for each of these areas but we'll simplify it for data access concerns.

In most cases, Places are your cities and County Subdivisions are your towns. Living in New England and New York makes it a bit more convenient because in all New England states and New York both cities and towns can be accessed using the 'County Subdivision' geography. However, 'villages' are considered Places and won't be found in the 'County Subdivision geography. It's important to know this because when we get into the FactFinder and get to the screen where we choose our geographies we're going to be prompted to first choose a Geographic Area. The terms 'city' or 'town' will not be an option. But 'Places' and 'County Subdivisions' will.

The bottom 3 geographies are pretty unique to the Census Bureau – Census Tracts, Block Groups and Blocks. They allow for more localized data access.

Census Tracts generally have a population threshold of 1500 to 8000 with an optimum population of 4000. Tracts usually follow physical boundaries – streets, rivers, etc. And they are identified by 1 to 4 digits – (1 to 9999). Census Tracts are unique to the county they are in. So there could be a Census Tract 216 in Hartford Cty and Litchfield Cty and Fairfield Cty.

Block Groups are generally between 300 and 4000 in population with an optimum population of 1500. Block Groups generally follow physical boundaries. And are identified by 1 digit. (eg. Block Group 1, Block Group 4, etc.)

Blocks are the smallest geographic level the census bureau provides data for. There isn't actually a population threshold for blocks. In rural areas blocks could be hundreds of square miles in size and have no one living in them. But in urban areas like Boston a block is generally a city block. Blocks are identified by 4 digits with the first digit representing the Block Group it is in. For instance blocks 1001, 1002 and 1003 are in BG 1.

A better way to explain these geographies is visually so we put together some maps on the next 3 slides.

Geography: Summary Levels

Search - Use the options on the left (search, topics, geographies, ...) to find the data you're looking for

Your Selections
 Dataset: 2010 Redistricting Data SF (PL 94-171)
 clear all selections

Search within Results for...

Topics
 Geographies (states, counties, places, ...)
 Population Groups (race, ethnicity, ...)
 Industry Codes (NAICS, ...)

Geography Filter Options
 Geographic Type
 Summary Level
 045 - State (53)
 050 - County (3,823)
 060 - County Subdivision (41,820)
 067 - Subminor Civil Division (145)
 100 - Block (120,695)
 140 - Census Tract (70,824)
 150 - Block Group (225,104)
 155 - County (or part) (30,046)
 160 - Place (24,323)
 170 - Consolidated City (7)
 172 - Place Within Consolidated City (or part) (118)
 200 - Alaska Native Regional

Select Geography
 You are here: [Main](#) > [Data Sets](#) > [Data Sets with Detailed Tables](#) > [Geography](#) > [Tables](#) > [Results](#)
 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Detailed Tables

Choose a selection method

[Explain Census Geography](#) | [Where are Geographic Components \(Urban and Rural\)?](#)

Select a geographic type
 Nation
 Region
 Division
 State
 County
 County Subdivision
 Place/Remainder (or part)
 Census Tract (or part)
 Subminor Civil Division
 Census Tract
 Place
 County (or part)
 Consolidated City
 Place Within Consolidated City (or part)
 Alaska Native Regional Corporation
 American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/Hawaiian Home Land (or part)
 Reservation or Statistical Entity Only (or part)
 American Indian Area (Off-Reservation Trust Land Only)/Hawaiian Home Land (or part)
 Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area (or part)
 Principal City

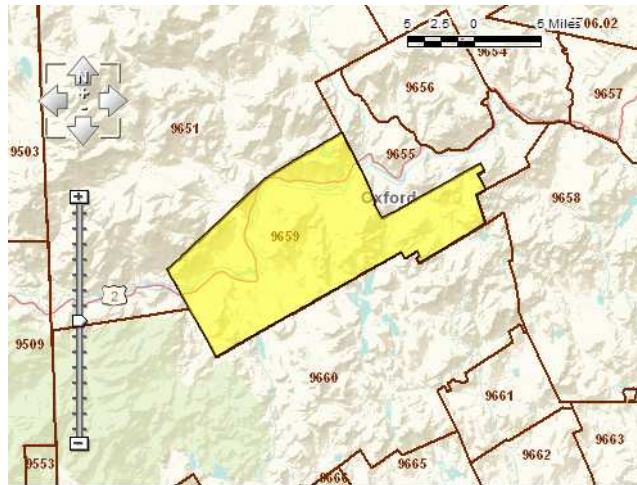
New AFF (factfinder2.census.gov)

Legacy AFF (factfinder.census.gov)

United States Census Bureau Boston Region

Examples of how Summary Levels fit into each system.

Census Tract 9659, Oxford County, ME



- **Census Tracts** generally have a population of 1,500 to 8,000 (optimum **4,000**) and follow physical boundaries.

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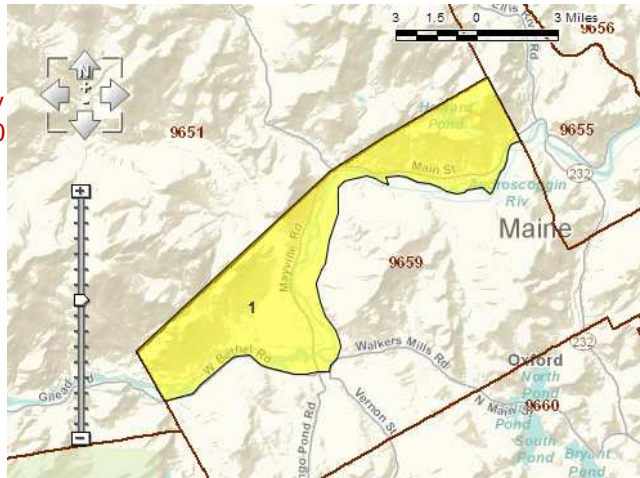
So let's take a look at some of these geographies that we just talked about.

This is a map of Census Tract 3518 in Waterbury, CT.

Census Tracts generally have a population threshold of 1,500 to 8,000 with an optimum population of 4,000. Tracts usually follow physical boundaries – streets, rivers, etc.

BG 1, Census Tract 9659, Oxford County

- **Block Groups** generally have a population of 300 to 4,000 (optimum 1,500) and follow physical boundaries.

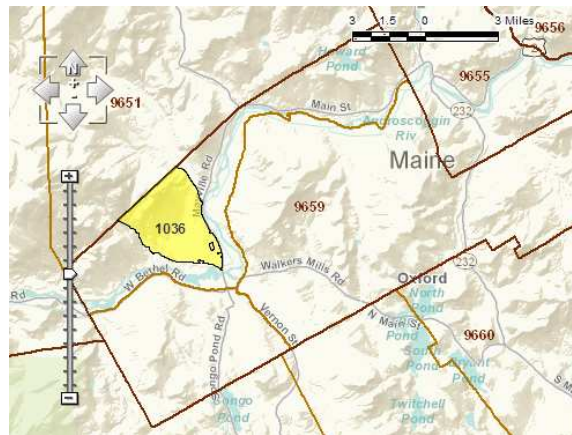


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This is the same map, just zoomed in a bit. The light pink line delineates Block Group 2, in Census Tract 3518 in Waterbury, CT.

Block Groups are generally between 300 and 4,000 in population with an optimum population of 1,500. Block Groups generally follow physical boundaries.

Block 1036, BG1, Census Tract 9659, Oxford County, ME



- **Blocks:** the smallest geographic level for which census data is available. No population threshold. Size varies.

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And finally, zoomed in a bit more. The yellow lines delineate the blocks. Specifically we're looking at Block 2004 in Block Group 2 in Census Tract 3518 which is in Waterbury.

Blocks are the smallest geographic level the census bureau provides data for. There isn't actually a population threshold for blocks. In rural areas blocks could be hundreds of square miles in size and have no one living in them. But in urban areas, a block is generally a city block.

New American Factfinder

The screenshot shows the U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder website. At the top, it says "U.S. Census Bureau" and "AMERICAN FactFinder". Below this, there is a navigation bar with "NEW American FactFinder" and "Legacy American FactFinder" options. A map of the United States is visible in the background. The main content area features a red banner that reads "The NEW American FactFinder is now available!". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining the transition: "The transition from the legacy American FactFinder to the NEW American FactFinder will continue through the fall of 2011. Data on the legacy FactFinder will be moved to the NEW FactFinder in the coming months. [Frequently Asked Questions](#) »". Another paragraph states: "The legacy American FactFinder will be discontinued in the fall of 2011." Below the text, there are two side-by-side screenshots of the website interfaces. The left screenshot shows the "NEW American FactFinder" interface with the text "for data from Census 2010 (beginning in February 2011) and Census 2000 go to factfinder2.census.gov". The right screenshot shows the "Legacy American FactFinder" interface with the text "for data from the American Community Survey, the Economic Census, and Population Estimates go to factfinder.census.gov". At the bottom of the slide, there is a logo for the "United States Census Bureau Boston Region" and a collage of people.

So now we're going to go online and get our hands dirty in the American FactFinder – the Census Bureau's data access tool. Before we do that I just wanted to bring this site back up. After discussing the different components of the AFF this slide hopefully makes a little more sense in terms of why you are going to need to learn both systems. The NEW system includes data from the 2010 Census and Census 2000. The LEGACY system includes the ACS data. Now, eventually everything will be migrated to the new system but for now we need to use both.

FactFinder 101

1. Know the Data You Want



2. Know Your Geography

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This is also a great time to talk about what we call FactFinder 101. These are the 2 elements that you need to know before you even turn on your computer. Number 1 – Know what data you want. Are you interested in income and poverty data? Do you need information on the languages spoken in your area? Are you interested in the elderly population and want an age breakdown? That's number 1. Number 2 – you need to know which geographic area or areas you want the data for. For the most part you are all going to know what area you want since most of you are interested in a certain community or have a specific service area. But always know these 2 things. The reason being, each of these items are going to determine your selections in they system. For instance, knowing you are looking for income data will force you to select the ACS if you are looking for the most current income data. And if you are interested in looking at income data for census tracts you will need to look at the 5yr Estimate.

How do I get to the data?

EXERCISES

1. Access the 2010 Census Demographic Profile for Bethel, ME.
2. Get a 2010 Race and Ethnicity Breakdown for ME, Oxford County and Bethel.
3. Find Median Household Income data for Bethel, ME.
4. Educational Attainment data for ME cities and towns.
7. Find Total Housing Units for all Census Tracts in Bethel.
8. Find a Census Tract, Block Group and Block by address.
9. Get Total Population of each from 2010 Census.

