Logistics

• Slides available in Handouts tab

• Captioning link in Chat tab

• Type questions into Questions tab
Come to Your Census: Demystifying and Accessing Census Data

Taylor Leigh

Associate Librarian
Liaison to the School of Public Policy and Administration
Walden University
Objectives

• Describe the United States Census and its operations

• Learn about the most commonly utilized Census tools and surveys

• Access Census data in a variety of ways using American FactFinder and Quick Facts
Brief History of the Census

• Active since 1790; first administered by Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson

• Mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution; Codified in Title 13 and Title 26 of the U.S. Code

• Nature and number of inquiries have changed over the years as the US population has changed

• First mechanized in 1890

• Census Bureau created in 1902; previously conducted under the auspices of U.S. Marshals
How the Census Collects its Data

Mission statement:

“The Census Bureau's mission is to serve as the nation’s leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.” (census.gov)

Surveys and programs:

– Decennial census (every 10 years)
– Economic census (every 5 years)
– Census of governments (every 5 years)
– American Community Survey (ACS) (every year)
How Census Data is Used

• Population estimates and projections
• Political representation in the House of Representatives
• Allocation of resources
• Economic indicators
• Geographic boundary information
• Data visualizations
• Scholarly research
Census Regions & Divisions

Source: www.census.gov
Census Geography Hierarchy

Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
Small Area Geography

For more information about Census geographies, visit the following Census site: Geographic Terms & Concepts
### Social
- Ancestry
- Citizenship Status
- Disability Status
- Educational Attainment & School Enrollment
- Fertility
- Grandparents as Caregivers
- Language Spoken at Home
- Marital History; Marital Status
- Migration/Residence 1 Year Ago
- Period of Military Service
- Place of Birth
- Undergraduate Field of Degree
- Veteran Status
- Year of Entry

### Demographic
- Age
- Hispanic or Latino Origin
- Race
- Relationship to Householder
- Sex

### Economic
- Commuting (Journey to Work) & Place of Work
- Employment Status
- Food Stamps/SNAP
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Income and Earnings
- Industry, Occupation, & Class of Worker
- Poverty Status
- Work Status Last Year

### Housing
- Bedrooms
- Computer and Internet Use
- House Heating Fuel
- Kitchen Facilities
- Occupancy/Vacancy Status
- Occupants Per Room
- Plumbing Facilities
- Rent
- Rooms
- Selected Monthly Owner Costs
- Telephone Service Available
- Tenure (Owner/REnter)
- Units in Structure
- Value of Home
- Vehicles Available
- Year Householder Moved into Unit
- Year Structure Built

Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
# Availability of ACS Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Population of Geographic Area</th>
<th>1-Year Estimates</th>
<th>1-Year Supplemental Estimates</th>
<th>5-Year Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65,000 or more</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 to 64,999</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 20,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
Census Data Tools & Apps

- American FactFinder
- Quick Facts
- My Congressional District
- Census Business Builder
- Population Clock
- Economic Indicators

For more information, visit the following Census pages:
- Data Tools & Apps
- Data Access Tools
### Census Data Products and Descriptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Product</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Profiles</td>
<td>Provide broad social, economic, housing, and demographic profiles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative Profiles</td>
<td>Summarize the information in the data profiles using concise, nontechnical text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison Profile</td>
<td>Compares over 5-year period selected enhancements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected Population Profiles</td>
<td>Provide broad social, economic, and housing profiles for a large number of race, ethnic, ancestry, and country/region of birth groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed Tables</td>
<td>Provide access to the most detailed ACS data and cross tabulations of ACS variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Tables</td>
<td>Similar to data profiles but include more detailed ACS data, classified by subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranking Tables</td>
<td>Provide state rankings of estimates across 86 key variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Comparison Tables</td>
<td>Compare geographic areas other than states (e.g., counties or congressional districts) for key variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Tables</td>
<td>Detailed tables available for geographic areas with populations of 20,000 or more.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
Historical Census Records

- 72-year waiting period before Census records data specific to individual respondents are available to the public
- Currently, the 1940 Census records are the most recent historical data specific to individual respondents that can be accessed by the public
- Access to historical Census records is overseen by the National Archives and Records Administration (www.nara.gov), but there are other commercial sources, such as the National Historical Geographic Information System (https://www.nhgis.org/)
Other Census-related Apps & Tools

- Census Reporter
- Area Deprivation Index (ADI)
- OnTheMap for Emergency Management
Conclusion

• Contact the Census:
  – Census.gov → Data → Training and workshops
  – Census.askdata@census.gov
  – Acso.data.users.support@census.gov
  – 1-844-ASK-DATA

• Contact Walden Library:
  – Ask a Librarian
  – Capstone appointments (doctoral students)
  – sppa.librarian@mail.waldenu.edu
Thank you!