

United States Census

a data source for all...

What is the census?

- decennial survey of the United States population
- participation is *required*
- occurs every ten years
- federal law protects data privacy
- used to
 - apportion congressional seats
 - make effective emergency response
 - make enormous decisions in lots of organizations
 - public and private
 - divvy up ~\$300 billion in government \$\$\$
 - much, much more

What is the census?

- Mandated in the constitution

"Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct."

Census Specifics

- Well, that was racist!
 - that's not the half of it
 - until 1960, race determined by census taker
 - until 2000, only one race allowed
- race v. ethnicity
 - "Hispanic/Latino/a" = ethnicity

Census Specifics

- 1790 until now
- longitudinal census data is hard to get a hold of
 - longitudinal = time series
- 1990, 2000 most accessible in GIS data

Census Specifics

- Long form versus short form
 - both are samples
 - 1/6 receive long form
 - summary file 3 = SF3
 - 5/6 receive short form
 - summary file 1 = SF1
 - both have margins of error!

Census Specifics

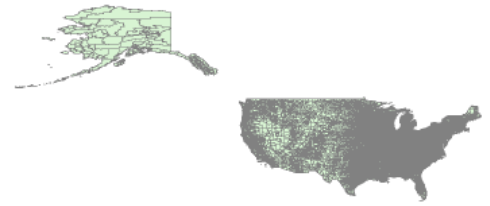
- in 2000, 2010 short form contained
 - name, sex, age, relationship
 - Hispanic origin, race
 - home owned or rented
- ~10 minutes to complete

Census Specifics

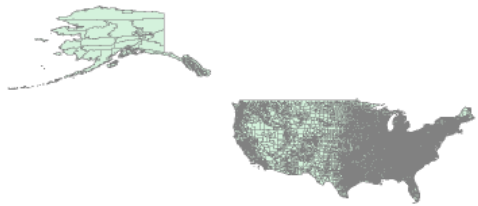
- in 2000, long form asked about
 - marital status, place of birth, citizenship
 - education, ancestry, language, labor force status
 - number of rooms, plumbing and kitchen facilities
 - value of home, monthly rent
 - much, much more...
- ~ around 38 minutes to complete

Census Specifics

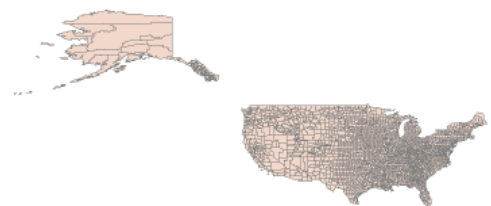
- spatial aggregation
 - three types of regions
 - legal
 - congressional districts, cities, counties, etc.
 - statistical
 - block groups, census tracts, MSAs, etc.
 - functional
 - ZIP+5 codes, ZIP+3 codes, etc.



block groups



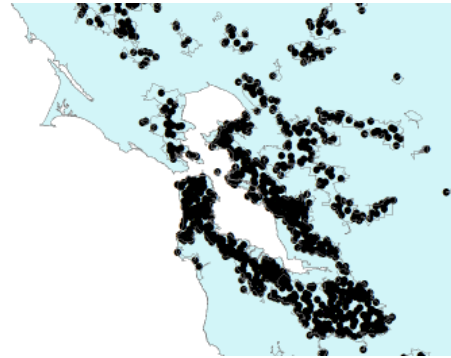
census tracts > block groups



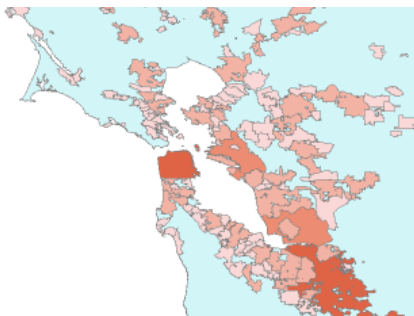
counties > census tracts



urban areas



urban areas



“places”

2010 Census

- Big changes in 2010
- no long form
- reliance on American Community Survey data instead
 - better temporal resolution
 - worse spatial resolutions
 - worse margins of error
- cuts costs for census

Census Specifics

- American Community Survey
 - sent to small %s of communities on a rotating basis
 - 1/40 households per year
 - most recent data is from 2006

Census Specifics

Custom Table

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Data Set: [2006 American Community Survey](#)
 Survey: [2006 American Community Survey](#)

Result contains 233 rows.

NOTE: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling errors and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

Rows: **1-200** [Next](#)

	Universe: FAMILIES: Median family income in the past 12 months (in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars)	
	B19113_1_EST	B19113_1_MOE
PUMA 00200, California	82,162	+/-3,156
PUMA 00300, California	51,565	+/-3,303
PUMA 00400, California	43,659	+/-2,826
PUMA 00500, California	43,756	+/-3,773
PUMA 00600, California	53,436	+/-4,094
PUMA 00700, California	61,989	+/-4,040
PUMA 00800, California	82,607	+/-4,012
PUMA 00900, California	69,341	+/-3,792
PUMA 01000, California	76,352	+/-4,259
PUMA 01101, California	76,211	+/-4,313
PUMA 01102, California	78,876	+/-4,262
PUMA 01103, California	67,655	+/-4,375
PUMA 01201, California	65,914	+/-4,875
PUMA 01202, California	113,294	+/-6,016
PUMA 01301, California	70,114	+/-4,535
PUMA 01302, California	69,659	+/-4,397
PUMA 01303, California	72,917	+/-5,063
PUMA 01401, California	49,146	+/-4,229
PUMA 01402, California	43,976	+/-4,139
PUMA 01403, California	62,192	+/-3,755
PUMA 01501, California	51,774	+/-4,429
PUMA 01600, California	63,624	+/-3,521

Census Specifics

- margin of error
 - 90 percent confidence interval for the census
 - \$10,000 median income estimate + \$1,000 margin of error =
 - 90 percent sure that the median income is between \$11,000 and \$9,000

Census Specifics

- spatial resolution
 - will get better over time
 - right now, only areas w/ > 65,000 people included

Census Specifics

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/compACS.htm>

[http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/iss/
AmericanCommunitySurvey.htm#Comparisons](http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/iss/AmericanCommunitySurvey.htm#Comparisons)