

Census Data 101 - A Brief Summary of US Census Data

<http://www.census.gov>



Frank Donnelly - Geospatial Librarian, Newman Library, Baruch College CUNY

Francis\_Donnelly@baruch.cuny.edu

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Census Data 101 - Decennial

- Collected every ten years at the beginning of each decade
- Population, households, families, housing units
- Variety of geographic areas (summary levels) down to the block level
- SF1 - 100% Count, basic demographic variables: total population, race, age, gender, occupancy, tenure
- SF3 - 1 in 6 sample, additional variables: labor force, income, poverty, employment, place of work, housing unit age, housing unit price

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Census Data 101 - American Community Survey

- Collected every year, for households only
- Geography varies - data currently available only for areas with over 65,000 people
- Annual sample of approx 3 million addresses in every county. Estimates every year for areas with > 65,000 people. 3 to 5 year estimates for communities with < 65,000 will be available in 2010
- Wide variety of demographic and economic variables
- Will replace SF3 in the 2010 Decennial Census

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Census Data 101 - Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS)**

- Subset of original sample data containing individual responses from Decennial SF3 and ACS. Allows you to build your own samples for particular population characteristics
- Can be compiled to geographic areas called PUMAs, which are based on tract boundaries
- Sample of housing units and persons in housing units available for 5% of population (for PUMAs - areas with > 100,000 residents) and 1% of population (Super-PUMAs - areas with > 400,000 residents)
- NYCRDC provides access to restricted non-public microdata with all questionnaire responses

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Census Data 101 - Other**

- Population and Housing Estimates: based on births, deaths, and migration for states, counties, cities, and metro areas. Published annually, revised after each decennial census
- Population Projections : estimates of population for future years, based on cohort-component method. Published periodically for states and counties
- Economic Census: Counts and classifies businesses into categories (NAICS), tracks number of employees and payroll for states, counties, places and metro areas. Conducted every five years in years ending with 2 and 7
- Misc Surveys

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---