

Census Materials

MPP Census Workshop Materials

[Tufts license of Social Explorer](#) - you will be asked to log in if you aren't on campus.

[MPP Social Explorer Tutorial](#)

[Census Overview presentation](#)

Workshop materials

Before the workshop:

- Take a look through the [US Census web site](#)
- The [Census 2020](#) web site
- The [American Community Survey](#) web site - see especially [Guidance for Data Users](#) (and the link to handbooks there)

During the workshop, we will use these materials- please open all of these in [new, separate tab](#)

- [MPP Social Explorer Tutorial](#)- you can use this in class or later on your own
- [Census 2020 Questionnaire](#) - this is the questionnaire that will go out in March 2020. Take a look at it - it is only a few questions, first about one person, then similar questions for other people in the housing unit. Who should be "person 1" do you think? How would you handle persons 2, 3, 4, etc.? Remember, the "census" goes out once every 10 years to every housing unit address in the US. It is our basic "100%" census of population and housing.
- [2020 American Community Survey \(ACS\) questionnaire](#) - the ACS is very important to policy advocates and planning professionals as it contains many detailed questions. It is sent to a sample of housing units. Take a look through the questionnaire to get an understanding of what it asks. What questions are of interest to you and your work? How would you feel filling out this form? And note, there is a question about citizenship already on the ACS form as well as a question about ancestry.
- [Why the Census asks each question](#) - Take a look at a few questions of interest to you. You can see the Census Bureau anticipates concerns about privacy and wants people to know how the questions are used and how it will benefit our communities. Also you should know that the individual's answers on a census form are kept private for 70 years. The individual data of the 1940 census was released in 2012! You can see this web site if you're interested - <https://1940census.archives.gov/index.asp>

Census Data Mappers and Viewers

- [Social Explorer \(Tufts license\)](#) - good for current and historical decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS) data, mapping, and Excel reports
- [Policy Map \(Tufts license\)](#) - good for recent and current census and many other policy-related data, mapping, and PDF reports
- [American Fact Factfinder](#) - the Census Bureau's main entry way for data download for all 2000 and 2010 decennial census and ACS data

2010 Census and American Community Survey - web sites and guides

- The [US Census Bureau](#) web site
- The [2010 Census Questionnaire Reference Book](#) - good answers to questions about the census
- The [2010 Census web site](#)
- The [American Community Survey web site](#) - see especially [Guidance for Data Users](#) (and the link to handbooks there)
- [Census Geography](#) - see especially the Reference section for the *Hierarchy Diagram* and *Terms and Concepts*

Articles about the American Community Survey and the sampling error issue

- Spielman, S. E., Folch, D., & Nagle, N. (2014). [Patterns and causes of uncertainty in the American Community Survey](#). *Applied Geography*, 46, 147-157.
- MacDonald, Heather (2006). [The American Community Survey: warmer \(more current\), but fuzzier \(less precise\) than the Decennial Census](#). *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 72(4), 491-503.

Resources about the history of the census

- [IPUMS USA - Enumeration Forms, 1860 - 2000, and 2000-2006 American Community Survey](#) - this is good site for finding what questions were asked in the different Census years in the US
- [200 Years of Census Questions: Population and Housing, 1790 - 1990](#) (this is a publication by the US Census Bureau)
- Census interactive graphic describing what races/ethnicities the Census has asked about through its history: [What the Census Calls Us: An Historical Timeline](#)