Navigating data.census.gov

June 2, 2020

Tyson Weister
Center for Enterprise Dissemination (CED)
U.S. Census Bureau
Outline

- What is data.census.gov
- Live Demo
- Common Questions
- Q&A
What is data.census.gov?
**New dissemination platform:**
- Streamline access to data on census.gov search
  - One platform allows all content to be searchable
- Maintain best of current tools
  - Functionality available for all data
- Reduce redundancies and costs
  - One platform = One delivery
- Provide greater access to Census API

**Data.census.gov is a work in progress:**
- Agile software development process
- Two month cycle of development:
  - Develop, Release, Feedback, Redefine, Release Again
- Customer-driven development based on feedback

**data.census.gov:** Changing the way you get data.
## Surveys and Programs on data.census.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Community Survey</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decennial Census (Selected Tables)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Census</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County and Zip Code Business Patterns</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Employer Statistics</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey of Business Owners (Company</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary &amp; Characteristics of Business Owners)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓: Available now

Blank cell: Coming soon
Live Demo
Visualizations of popular Census Bureau data for King County, WA

Single Search:

Two Ways to access the Geography Profile for King County

1. The Single Search Bar
   - Type King County in the single search bar
   - Click “King County, Washington Profile”

All Results Page:

2. The All Results Page
   - Type King County in the single search or use the advanced search filters
   - On the right hand side of the screen under “Explore Data”, click “King County, Washington Profile”
Visualizations of popular Census Bureau data for King County, WA

Geography Profile for King County

King County, Washington

People and Population
Race and Ethnicity
Families and Living Arrangements
Health
Education
Business and Economy
Employment
Housing
Income and Poverty

King County, Washington
County, or equivalent in Washington

Covering 2,115 square miles, King County, Washington is the 11th-largest county in Washington by area. King County, Washington is bordered by Yakima County, Kitsap County, Pierce County, Snohomish County, Kittitas County, and Chelan County.

- POPULATION: 2,163,257
- MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $89,418
- POVERTY RATE: 9.5%
- EMPLOYMENT RATE: 66.6%
Single Search: Education in Bremerton

Using the single search bar

• Type topic + geography
  “Education in Bremerton”
• View featured result at the top of the page
DP (Data Profiles) are a great start to see a variety of Census Bureau data across topics:

- Type table prefix + Geography into the single search bar “DP Bremerton”
- Browse the four data profiles
Example 2 - Advanced Search:

Percent without Health Insurance:
Tacoma, Pierce County, and Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Metro Area
Select Geography: Seattle Metro Area

Select Geography

Geography → Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area → Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area

TIP: Click the magnifying glass at the top of the panel to search the list of Metro Areas
Select Geography: Tacoma and Pierce County

- Select Geography

Geography → Place → Washington → Tacoma city, Washington

Geography → County → Washington → Pierce County, Washington
Select Topic

Use advanced search:
- Topics → Health → Health Insurance
- Verify filters and click Search in the lower right
Choose Table, Verify Product Drop Down, and Click Customize Table

- Click Tables in the upper left
- Verify product drop down menu says is set to your desired dataset (ACS 1-year or ACS 5-year estimates)
- Select your table
- Click Customize Table
1. Expand or collapse columns by dragging it left or right in the shaded area
2. Click, hold and drag columns off your screen to hide them
3. Toggle on/off the margin of error (MOE) as desired
Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pierce County, Washington</th>
<th>Tacoma city, Washington</th>
<th>Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Uninsured</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian noninstitutionalized population</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 6 years</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 18 years</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 25 years</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 34 years</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can copy and paste cells from data.census.gov into Excel
- Select cells
- Right click and select copy cells with headers
You can export an entire table to Excel:

- Right click the table
- Select Export Table
- Select Export to Excel

Open Excel file
Example 3 - Advanced Search and Mapping:

S2701: All census tracts in Pierce County
Specify Table ID

Use advanced search:
- Search by table ID in the first text box directly under the Advanced Search heading
Select Geography: All Census Tracts in Pierce County, WA

- Select Geography
  - Geography → Tract
  - Washington → Pierce County, Washington → All Census Tracts within Pierce County, Washington

- Verify filters and click Search in the lower right.
View Table Results

- Click Tables in the upper left
- Find an estimate that you would like to map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civilian non-institutional</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+/-149</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>+/-5.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Accessiblity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 6 years</td>
<td>+/-12</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>+/-71.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 18 years</td>
<td>+/-32</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>+/-41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 25 years</td>
<td>+/-84</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>+/-21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 34 years</td>
<td>+/-54</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>+/-7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>+/-56</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>+/-8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>+/-12</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>+/-12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Navigate to the map tab

- Click Maps from the table results page
- Click your table of interest
- Verify the map is set to the census tract level, and that it is zoomed to census tracts in the Pierce County. You may need to manually zoom and scroll to the selected tracts.
Select Your Variable

From the Map View
- Click Customize Map
- Select the Data Variable dropdown menu and keep scrolling to the bottom until you’ve loaded the full list
- Find and click the variable that says Percent Uninsured—Civilian noninstitutionalized population—Estimate
Click on the census tracts with the darkest shade of blue to see which census tracts have the highest percentage of people without health insurance.
Compare Your Variable Across Geographies

- Click View Table in the left navigation panel.
- View table with all of your geographies. Click the column header for your variable to sort the data in ascending or descending order.
Download Table

- Click **Download Table** from the Customize Table view.

- Verify the years you would like to download.

- Click Download.
• Open the file that has “data_with_overlays” in the naming convention
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GEO_ID</td>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>S2701_C01</td>
<td>S2701_C01</td>
<td>S2701_C02</td>
<td>S2701_C02</td>
<td>S2701_C03</td>
<td>S2701_C03</td>
<td>S2701_C04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>id</td>
<td>Geographic Area Name</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>Margin of Estimate</td>
<td>Margin of Estimate</td>
<td>Margin of Estimate</td>
<td>Margin of Estimate</td>
<td>Margin of Estimate</td>
<td>Margin of Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1400000US53053060200</td>
<td>Census Tract 602, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1400000US53053060300</td>
<td>Census Tract 603, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1400000US53053060400</td>
<td>Census Tract 604, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>59.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1400000US53053060500</td>
<td>Census Tract 605, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1400000US53053060600</td>
<td>Census Tract 606, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1400000US53053060700</td>
<td>Census Tract 607, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1400000US53053060800</td>
<td>Census Tract 608, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1400000US53053060903</td>
<td>Census Tract 609.03, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1400000US53053060904</td>
<td>Census Tract 609.04, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1400000US53053060905</td>
<td>Census Tract 609.05, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1400000US53053060906</td>
<td>Census Tract 609.06, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1400000US53053061001</td>
<td>Census Tract 610.01, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1400000US53053061002</td>
<td>Census Tract 610.02, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1400000US53053061100</td>
<td>Census Tract 611, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1400000US53053061200</td>
<td>Census Tract 612, Pierce County, Washington</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Change Your Table ID

- Click into the single search bar
- Select Advanced Search
Change Your Table ID (continued)

- Type a new table ID in the first text box under the Advanced Search heading (e.g. S1501)

- Notice your previous filters still appear

- Click search in the lower right
View Table Results

- Click Tables in the upper left
- View your table for your previously selected geographies

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Accessibility
Information Quality
Most Common Questions
Where Are Population Estimates?

Population Estimates are not in data.census.gov yet. Access them at census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data.html
What is the Recommended Browser?

data.census.gov works best in Google Chrome
Where Are the Checkboxes to Select All Geos in a List?

We do not have all the collections that American FactFinder had. While we work to add them:

• Use maps on data.census.gov to select individual geographies or small groupings

• Use FTP sites or API -- Guides on how to access these data through the API are available on our Resource Page at: census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html

• Tell us what collections you would like to see by emailing cedsci.feedback@census.gov
Why Am I Losing My Geographies and Other Selected Filters?

You went to “edit” your search terms in the single search bar but this actually clears everything out and starts a fresh search.

To keep your filters and edit your search:

• Click into the single search bar
• Select Advanced Search
• Type new search criteria in the first text box underneath the Advanced Search header
• Click Search in the lower right
How Can I Find the Geographies for an Address?

To find the census tract or other geographic areas associated with a particular address:

- Use the Census Geocoder and reference FAQ KCP-5495

FAQ: How to Use the Census Geocoder:
ask.census.gov/prweb/PRServletCustom?pyActivity=pyMobileSnapStart&ArticleID=KCP-5495
Find the block group and census tract for an address:
• Click **Address** under “Find Geographies Using…”
• Enter street address (example: **2300 Empire Ave, Burbank, CA 91504**)
• Click **Find**

`geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder`
Edit URL to get results for block group (8), census tract (10) and county (86)

- Add \&layers=8,10,86 to the end of the URL
- Press enter

Tips:
- Find codes for your geographic layers of interest: https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/arcgis/rest/services/TIGERweb/tigerWMS_Current/MapServer
- The Census Geocoder shows results for state, county, census tract, and block by default but you can manually specify many other types of geographies by editing the URL
-Continued-

- View the **NAME** section under the headings for **Census Block Groups, Census Tracts, and Counties**
- The street address falls within **Block Group 1, Census Tract 3105.01, Los Angeles County**

```
geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder/geographies/address?street=2300+Empire+Ave&city=Burbank&state=CA&zip=91504&benchmark=4&vintage=4&layers=8,10,86
```
How Can I Print My Table?

Use Control + P to print tables that have just a few columns

Right click to get your output in Excel
- Copy cells
- Copy cells with header
- Export entire table: Small tables less than 400 rows by 400 columns

Print from Excel or convert to PDF
Why Are My Geographies and Downloads Not in Order?

Data and downloads come from the API, and may not be ordered as you would expect:

All the data is included and you can manually sort it after downloading the data

Columns may be out of order in downloaded data
Example: C27003 begins with the 17th row instead of the 1st

Geographies may not appear in alphabetical order
Example: Search for all states starts with Colorado
## Will My Customizations Carry Over to the Download?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Which customizations are shown in my output?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Download</td>
<td>• None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control P</td>
<td>• Filtered or Hidden data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Export | • Data filtered using the “Filter” button  
         |     • Transposed table                      |
| Copy | • All                                       |
What Should I Do After Seeing “Download Failed”? 

Break your download into smaller pieces by using:
• Fewer geographies
• Fewer tables/vintages in a single download
• Smaller tables

Example: Download median income from Detailed Table B19013 instead of Subject Table S1903

Uncheck the box for ACS 1-Year if your geography is not available for that vintage (e.g. census tracts)

Copy the URL and email it to cedsci.feedback@census.gov, along with your desired table IDs and geographies

Download from FTP Sites (links on data.census.gov)

Census Bureau’s Data API: census.gov/developers
Why Am I Getting “Data Not Available” Messages?

Slow internet connection or response time from our API -- Press F5 or click the reload button on your browser to resolve.

Check that the product drop down menu is set to ACS 5-year estimates if you selected small geographies.

You may also receive the message due to data quality concerns, which vary by survey/program. If you are not sure why you are getting the message, copy the URL and email it to cedsci.feedback@census.gov.
How Do I Use the API?

You can use the API to get results for a few estimates or an entire table, and view your results in Google Chrome or .csv

Learn through short videos and step-by-step flyers at census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html

Using Microdata Access
- Using Microdata Access: With ACS 1-Year Estimates to Create Use Microdata Sample (14.5 MB)
- Using Microdata Access: How To Create Poverty Estimates From The CPS ASEC (2.4 MB)

Using the Census API
- Census Data API Flyer (1.0 MB)
- How to Download 2010 Decennial Self-Response Rates for All Census Tracts in a State from the Census API (2.6 MB)
- How to Download 2020 Decennial Self-Response Rates for All Counties in a State from the Census API (1.9 MB)
- How to Download 2020 Decennial Self-Response Rates for All Census Tracts in a State from the Census API (2.8 MB)
- How to Download 2020 Decennial Self-Response Rates for All Counties in a State from the Census API (2.2 MB)
- How to Download All Congressional Districts from the Census API (4.6 MB)
- How to Download All Zip Code Tabulation Areas From the Census API (2.6 MB)
- Using the API to Get All Results for an ACS Table
- Using the API to Get Results for Multiple Estimates

Webinars
- New Updates to data.census.gov - December 2019
- data.census.gov: O & A Webinar
- The 2017 Economic Census First Look: How to Access It On data.census.gov

VIEW ALL WEBINARS
How do I use the Microdata Analysis tool?

data.census.gov/mdat
Stay Connected: Webinars, Tutorials, and Feedback

data.census.gov Resources page: census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html

Census Academy: census.gov/data/academy/webinars/upcoming.html

• **Webinars**: Recorded and upcoming webinars on data.census.gov

• **Data Gems**: A series of short “How-To” videos

**Feedback**: Email comments to cedsci.feedback@census.gov
Our Development Depends on **YOUR** Feedback

Explore Census Data
The Census Bureau is the leading source of quality data about the nation’s people and economy.

I’m looking for...

Advanced Search

Check out [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov) and provide comments at cedsci.feedback@census.gov
Feedback

Email your comments to cedsci.feedback@census.gov

Learn More and Share

What is data.census.gov?
census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html

Webinars:

Tutorials/Data Gems:
census.gov/data/academy/data-gems.html

Release Notes & FAQs:
data.census.gov/assets/release_notes/faqs-release-notes.pdf

Stay in Touch

cedsci.feedback@census.gov

tyson.weister@census.gov
301-763-9135

Tyson Weister
Program Analyst
Dissemination Outreach Branch
Center for Enterprise Dissemination
U.S. Census Bureau