# Using Census Data in Grant Writing OCCUR June 26, 2015



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# **Agenda**

- Grants overview
- Age Trends
- Overview of data sets
- Presenting the data
- Resources and Summary
- Hands on: Going on line
- Community Analysis Worksheet



Census Bureau U.S. Department of Commerce Leonoda to and Statistics Administrative

## **Components of the Grant Proposal**

- Activity Plan and Timeline
- Budget Section
- References
- Needs Statement
- Goals and Objectives
- Project Description



**Supportive Data** 



Department of Commerce nonvex and Statistics Administration

# The Needs Statement- Powerful Component of a Grant Proposal

- Describes the population that will benefit or the target population to be served
- Defines the community problem to be addressed.
- Includes both quantitative & qualitative support materials
- Describes the situation in factual terms

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# 10 Largest Federal Programs that use <u>Population</u> and <u>Income</u> data as factors

Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)
Unemployment Insurance
Highway Planning and Construction
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Federal Pell Grant Program
Title 1 Grants to Local Educational Agencies
Special Education Grants to States
National School Lunch Program
Head Start



## **Population Trends**

- Is the population growing or declining?
- Is this a youthful or aging population?
- What are the income levels?
- How many are living in poverty?
- What are the employment trends?



### Census Data a Reliable Source

- Population, Income, Education and Labor force statistics
- Data for small areas help to identify pockets of need in communities
- Data describes target population and communities
- · Helps identify problem and need for project
- Easy to compare to other areas, geographies
- Can tract population changes over time



#### Importance of Census Bureau Data for Grant Writing CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO COUNTY, UNITED STATES TO Comparability Persons per household, 2009-2013 Regularly High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 values • 2009-2013 85.0% 28.8% collected 21,253,779 Recognition Villa a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2009-2013 9.1% 8.4% Using in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2009-2013 84.9% Availability and 19.0% 12.9% accessibility Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years •. 2009-2013 20.7% In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2009-2013 59.3%

☐ Overview and Introduction	
☐ Description of the Community	FactFinder ()
✓ Community Residents	Tacti Maci
✓ Economic Stability	
☐ Community Values	American Community Survey
✓ Quality of Life	
☐ Community Resiliency	AND LEE SO
✓ Retail Sector Analysis	29 600 30
☐ Infrastructure Analysis	Cepsus

#### **Community Residents Community Residents** This section will provide insight into the potential/underserved target markets in the community. Present data information in a table. Indicator Description Sources Population change 2000-present; compare to state Population change American Factfinder (U.S. population change. Census). Households Number and percentage of family and nonfamily American Factfinder households. Age distribution Describe the population of the community by age American Factfinder category, median age. Condense age categories to no more than five categories. Working age Present number and age distribution of residents of American Factfinder population working age. Condense age categories to no more than four categories. Describe ethnic and racial makeup of the community. Ethnic diversity American Factfinder Describe residents by educational attainment. Group Education American Factfinder data by no more than 3 categories. Source: http://www.wmich.edu/consumer/rural-entrepreneurship/docs/retu-module2guide.pdf

# **Economic Stability**

#### **Economic Stability**

Data in this section gives an overview of the economic conditions in the community that impact consumers' purchasing power. Compare to state data in a table where appropriate.

Indicator	Description	Sources
Employment rate	Percent of labor force unemployed. Compare to state data.	American <u>Factfinder</u> .
Families above poverty level	Percentage of families living above poverty level in 2000. Compare to state data.	American <u>Factfinder</u>
Employment by industry	Present top 3 industry sectors by number and percentage of residents employed number and percentage of total employment. Compare to state data.	American <u>Factfinder</u>



# **Quality of Life**

#### **Quality of Life**

Describes the community in terms of its attractiveness as a place to live and work. Present findings in table format.

Indicator	Description	Sources	
Amenities	Describe the physical features (natural and <u>humanbuilt</u> ) of the community and nearby areas that draw residents and visitors to the community.	Personal observations, community literature, internet search See USDA ERS – Rural Development – Rural Amenities at http:// www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/ RutalAmenities/	
Community stability	Percentage of residents living in same house for the last 5 years.	American <u>Factfinder</u>	
Housing	Availability of affordable, quality housing.	American Factfinder, real estate advertisement, community literature, community leader presentation.	



# **Retail Sector**

Indicator	Description	Sources
Location of retail centers	Describe where retail centers are located in the community.	Personal observation, community literature, online maps/GPS.
Retail mix	Describe the mix of retailers in the community.	US Economic Census (2007) Internet, telephone directories community literature, persona observation.
Local ratall quality	Assessment of local retailer merchandising, graduct offerings, customer service strategies. Describe strengths and weaknesses.	Personal observations during community visit.
Competitors outside the community	Identify major shopping destinations outside community.	State maps, internet search

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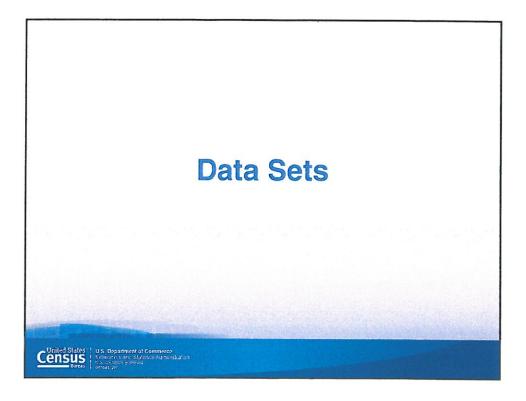
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Data Access 101

# Census data comes in many forms!

- 1. Annual Population Estimates
- 2. Decenniel
- 3. American Community Survey
- 4. Current Population Survey
- 5. Other Surveys (100's of others)
- 6. Economic Census





# **Estimates and Projections?**

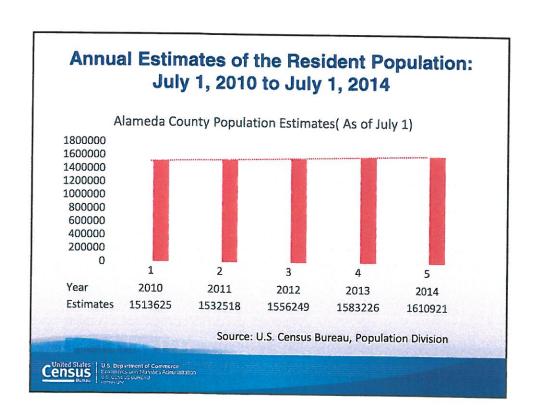
- Estimates
  - For the present and the past
  - Produced using administration records and other data
  - The official measures of population and housing units between censuses
    - Monthly and Annual (July 1) for each year
    - Formulated based on the latest census number, birth and death rates and migration
- Projections
  - Estimates for future dates
    - Produced by making assumptions about future trends
    - Use the latest Published census or estimates as a base



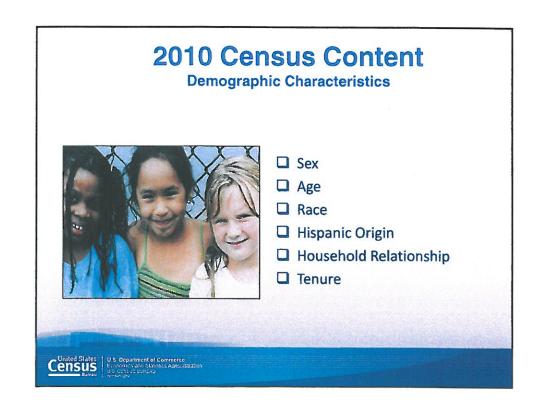
# What estimate data do we produce?

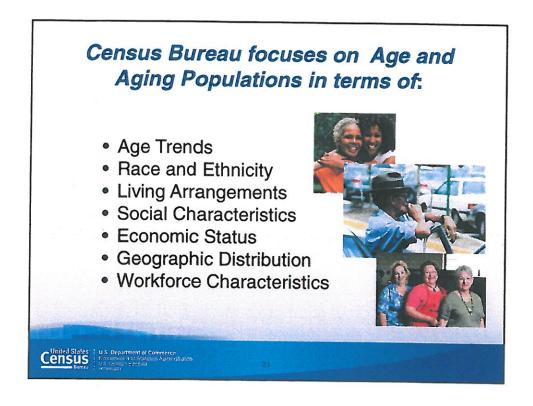
- Resident population
  - Totals
    - National, state, county, sub-county (Incorporated Cities)
  - Demographic Characteristics
    - National, state and county
      - Age, sex, race and Hispanic origin
- Other Data
  - Component of change
    - Birth, deaths and migration
  - Housing Units
  - Population Universes
    - Residents plus armed forces overseas, civilian and civilian non-institutionalized

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Quick		
http://quickfacts.census.gov/	/qfd/states/06/06001.html	
Jameda County California		
Jameda County, California		
	Want more? Browse data sets for	
People QuickFacts	Alameda County	California
Population, 2014 estimate	1,610,921	38,802,500
Population, 2013 estimate	1,583,226	38,431,393
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	1,510,261	37,254,503
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014	6.7%	4.2%
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	4.8%	3.2%
Population, 2010	1,510,271	37,253,956
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2013	6.1%	6.5%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2013	21.7%	23.9%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2013	12.2%	12.5%
Female persons, percent, 2013	51.0%	50.3%
White alone, percent, 2013 (a)	52.0%	73.5%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2013 (a)	12.4%	6.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2013 (a)	1.2%	1.7%
Asian alone, percent, 2013 (a)	28.2%	14.1%
The second secon		





1			Total Male			Female		
36 of 36	Subject	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Erro	
36	Total population	1,554,720	ANTER	782,552	+/-257	792,168	+/-26	
	AGE							
4	Under 5 years	6.3%	WRATE	6.6%	+/-0.1	6,1%	+/-0.	
-	5 to 9 years	6.1%	+/-0.2	6.4%	+/-0.3	5.7%	+/-0	
(	10 to 14 years	6.1%	+/-0.2	6.2%	+/-0.3	5.9%	+/-0.	
	15 to 19 years	8.2%	+/-0.1	6.5%	+/-0.1	5.9%	+/-0.	
1	20 to 24 years 25 to 29 years	7.2%	+/-0.1	7.3%	+/-0.1	7.0%	+/-0.	
	30 to 34 years	7.5%	+/-0.1	7.6%	+/-0.1	7.3%	+/-0.	
	35 to 39 years	7.8%	+/-0.1	7.8%	+/-0.1	7.8%	+/-0.	
	40 to 44 years	7.5%	+/-0.2	7.4%	+/-0.4	7.5%	+/-0.	
	45 to 49 years	7.4%	+/-0.2	7.6%	+/-0.4	7.2%	+/-0.	
	50 to 54 years	7.2%	+/-0.1	7.3%	+/-0.1	7.1%	+/-0	
	55 to 59 years	7.2%	+/-0.1	7.2%	+/-0.1	7.1%	+/-0.	
	60 to 64 years	6.5%	+/-0.2	6.5%	+/-0.3	6.6%	+/-0.	
	65 to 69 years	5.4%	+/-0.2	5.2%	+/-0.3	5.6%	+/-0.	
	70 to 74 years		+/-0.1	3.8%	+/-0.2	4.0%	+/-0.	
	75 to 79 years	2.7%	+/-0.1	2.4%	+/-0.2	2.9%	+/-0	
	60 to 84 years	1.6%	+/-0.1	1.796	+/-0.2	2.2%	+/-0.	
	85 years and over	1.6%	+/-0.1	1.3%	+/-0.1	1.9%	+/-0.	
į		1.070	47-0.1	1.1%	+/-0.2	2.1%	+/-0	
45	SELECTED AGE CATEGORES		manufacture de la constitución	AND ASSESSED OF THE PARTY OF TH	AND REAL PROPERTY.		AND DESIGNATION OF	
	5 to 14 years	12.1%	+/-0.1	12.6%	+/-0.1	11.6%		
	15 to 17 years	3.6%	+/-0.1	3.8%	+/-0.1	3.4%	+/-0	
	18 to 24 years	9.7%	+/-0.1	10.0%	+/-0.1		+/-0	
	15 to 44 years	43.5%	+/-0.1	44.3%	+/-0.1	42.7%	+/-0	
	16 years and over	80.4%	+/-0.1	79.6%	+/-0.2	81.3%	+/-0	
	18 years and over	77.9%	MANAGE	77.0%	+/-0.1	78.9%	+/-0	
	60 years and over	17.2%	+/-0.2	15.6%	+/-0.3		+/-0	
	62 years and over	14.9%	+/-0.2	13.3%	+/-0.2	16.4%	+/-0.	
	65 years and over	11.8%	+/-0.1	10.4%	+/-0.1		+/-0	
	75 years and over	5.2%	+/-0.1	4.2%	+/-0.1	6.2%	+/-0	
	SUMMARY INDICATORS						11-0	
	Median age (years)	36.9						
	Sex ratio (males per 100 females)		+/-0.2	36.0	+/-0.2	37.6	+/-0	
4	Age dependency ratio	96.3	+/-0.1	(00)	(X)	(00)	0	
		51.1	+/-0.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	0	
	Old-age dependency ratio Child dependency ratio	17.8	+/-0.1	(X)	(X)	(00)	0	
U.	Bureau Company ratio	33.4	+/-0.1	(X)	(X)	(00)	0	

# **Funding Allocations Using Age Data**

- · Adult basic education programs
- · Transportation services for elderly
- Social services for children under 5 years of age
- · Requesting funds under Title I
- · Housing needs for elderly
- · Supplemental food programs for children
- Job training programs for working age
- Delinquency prevention programs

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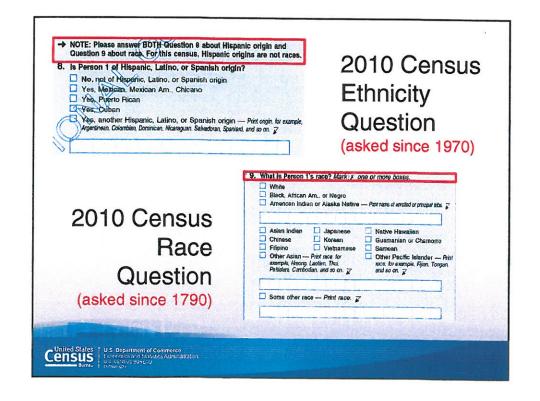
### Race and Ethnicity Data

- Guidelines provided by U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
  - Social definition of race recognized in U.S.
  - Not biological or anthropological definitions
- Uses of the data
  - Meet legislative redistricting requirements
  - Monitor compliance with Voting Rights Act
  - Assess home mortgage lending patterns of financial institutions to meet credit needs of minorities
  - Assess racial disparities in health

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#### **OMB Ethnicity Standards** OMB Ethnicity Categories → NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Hispanic or Latino Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races. Not Hispanic or Latino 8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? No. not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin Race & Ethnicity are consider Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano Yes, Puerto Rican separate concepts Yes, Cuban Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — Print origin for example. Argentinean Columbian, Dominican, Micaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard and so on 了 Those who identify as eithe ethnicity category above may of any race(s).



RACE	Number	Percent of Total Population
Total population	1,510,271	100
One Race	1,419,274	94
White	649,122	43
Black or African American	190,451	12.6
American Indian and Alaska Native	9,799	0.6
Asian	394,560	26.1
Native Hawalian and Other Pacific Islander	12,802	0.8
Some Other Race	162,540	10.8
Two or More Races	90,997	6
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE	Number	Percent of Total Population
Total population	1,510,271	100
Hispanic or Latino	339,889	22.5
Not Hispanic or Latino	1,170,382	77.5
White alone	514,559	34.1
Black or African American alone	184,126	12.2
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	4,189	0.3
Asian alone	390,524	25.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	11,931	0.8
Some Other Race alone	4,191	0.3
Two or More Races	60,862	4

White         649,122         43%         514,559         34           Black or African American         190,451         12.6%         184,126         12.2           American Indian and Alaska Native         9,799         0.6%         4,189         0.3           Asian         394,560         26.1%         390,524         25.9           Native Hawaiian and Other	Data for Alameda County	Race Alone (Hispanics can be any race)	Pct.	Race Alone, Not Hispanic	Pct.
Black or African American 190,451 12.6% 184,126 12.2  American Indian and Alaska 9,799 0.6% 4,189 0.3  Asian 394,560 26.1% 390,524 25.9  Native Hawaiian and Other 12.804 0.8% 11.931 0.8	Total Population	1,510,271	100%	1,510.271	100%
American Indian and Alaska 9,799 0.6% 4,189 0.3  Native 9,799 0.6% 390,524 25.9  Native Hawaiian and Other 12,804 0.8% 11,931 0.8	White	649,122	43%	514,559	34.1
Native 9,799 0.6% 4,189 0.3  Asian 394,560 26.1% 390,524 25.9  Native Hawaiian and Other 12,804 0.8% 11,931 0.8	Black or African American	190,451	12.6%	184,126	12.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other 12.804 0.8% 11.931 0.8		9,799	0.6%	4,189	0.3%
12 804 0 8% 11 931 0 9	Asian	394,560	26.1%	390,524	25.9%
		12,804	0.8%	11,931	0.8%
Some Other Race 162,540 10.8% 4,191 0.3	Some Other Race	162,540	10.8%	4,191	0.3%
Two or More Races 90,997 6% 60,862 4	Two or More Races	90,997	6%	60,862	4%
Hispanics Already counted above 339,889 22.5	Hispanics	Already counte	d above	339,889	22.5%

# Funding Allocations Using Race / Ethnicity Data

- Small minority business assistance
- Housing improvement
- Minority mental health programs
- Employment assistance
- Bilingual education programs
- State vocational development
- Food stamps program



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Department of Commerce monres and Statistics Admiristration (Consultationed)

# **Household Types**

Family households

Husband-wife family

Male householder, no wife present

Female householder, no husband present

Nonfamily households

Male householder

Living alone

Female householder

Living alone



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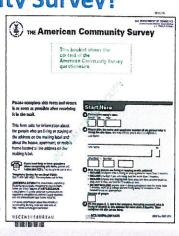
Economics and Statistics Administration U.C. SENSUS BUREAU

# American Community Survey (ACS)



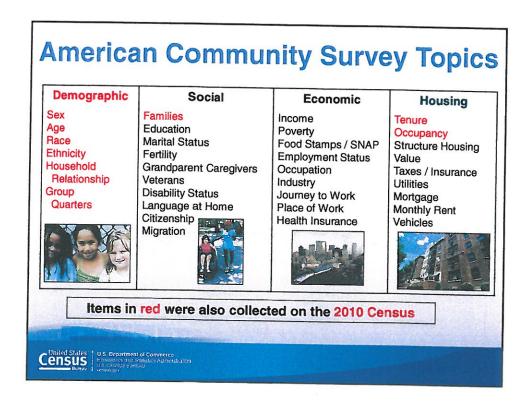
# What is the American Community Survey?

- Ongoing household survey that goes to about 2.5% of addresses annually
- Produces credible, cost-efficient statistics for decision-making at all levels of government and industry
- Part of the Decennial Census per James Madison, collecting vital statistics about the nation since 1790.
- Completed by mail, online access or interview follow up



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Data Product	Description
Data profiles	Provide broad social, economic, housing, and demographic profiles.
Narrative profiles	Summarize the information in the data profiles using concise, nontechnical text.
Selected population profiles	Provide broad social, economic, and housing profiles for a large number of race, ethnic, ancestry, and country/region of birth groups.
Ranking tables	Provide state rankings of estimates across 86 key variables.
Subject tables	Similar to data profiles but include more detailed ACS data, classified by subject.
Detailed tables	Provide access to the most detailed ACS data and crosstabulations of ACS variables.
Geographic comparison tables	Compare geographic areas other than states (e.g., counties or congressional districts) for key variables.
Thematic maps	Interactive, online maps that can be used to display ACS
Custom tables	Allow the user to extract specific rows of data from the ACS detailed tables.
Summary files	Provide access to the detailed tables through a series of comma-delimited text files on the Census Bureau's FTP site <www2.census.gov></www2.census.gov>
Public Use Microdata Sample files	Provide access to ACS microdata for data users with SAS and SPSS software experience.

a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have	
serious difficulty hearing?	G Answer question 18a – c if this person is 5 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to
☐ Yes	the questions for Person 2 on page 12.
☐ No	No. of the last of
<ul> <li>b. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?</li> </ul>	Because of a physical, mental, or emotiona condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
☐ No	☐ Yes
	□ No
	b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
Answer question 19 if this person is 15 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to	☐ Yes
the questions for Person 2 on page 12.	□ No
Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty	c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?
doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's	☐ Yes
office or shopping?	□ No

# **Disability Status**

- Beginning in 2008, questions on disability represent a conceptual and empirical break from earlier years of the ACS.
- Disability status is defined as the product of interactions among individuals' bodies; their physical, emotional, and mental health; and the physical and social environment in which they live, work, or play. A disability exists where this interaction results in limitations of activities and restrictions to full participation at school, at work, at home, or in the community.
- Identified disabilities and their universe:
  - Hearing difficulty (all ages)
  - Vision difficulty (all ages)
  - Cognitive difficulty (5 years old or older)
  - Ambulatory difficulty (5 years old or older)
  - Self-care difficulty (5 years old or older)
  - Independent living difficulty (18 years old or older)





#### Language Spoken at Home and **Ability to Speak English** 14 a. Does this person speak a language other than Language is tabulated for persons English at home? 5 years old and older. ☐ Yes It is important to look at language No → SKIP to question 15a AND the ability to speak English to b. What is this language? accurately determine those individuals that may need translation assistance to For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese participate in a program. c. How well does this person speak English? ☐ Very well ☐ Well ☐ Not well ☐ Not at all

# Financial Characteristics for Owner-Occupied Units Condominium Status and Fee Mobile Home Costs Mortgage Status and Payment (includes everything paid to the lender) Second or Junior Mortgage Payments or Home Equity Loan Insurance for Fire, Hazard, and Flood Real Estate Taxes Utilities Costs Value (The respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale.)

# Financial Characteristics for Renter-Occupied Units

- Rent:
  - Contract Rent = monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included.
  - Gross Rent = the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities, meals, and fuels if these are paid by the renter.
- House Heating Fuel
- Meals Included in Rent
- Utilities Costs





# **Housing Characteristics**





- Tenure
- Occupancy & Structure
- Housing Value
- Taxes & Insurance
- Utilities
- Mortgage/Monthly Rent

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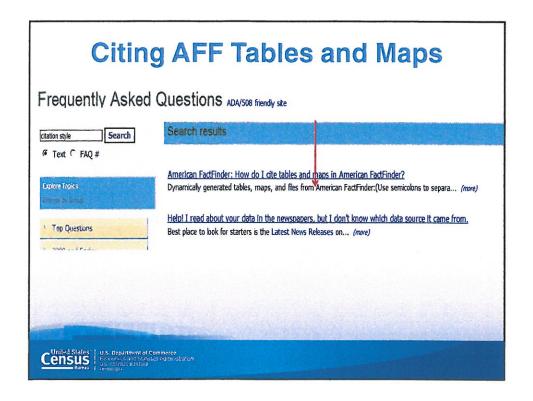
# Housing for the Elderly Special Needs Housing

- What is the age distribution of those living in your community?
- How many live in rental housing?
- How many live in housing they own?
- How many live alone?
- How many have mobility or living limitations?



# **Presenting the Data**





# **Examples of Citing**

- **U.S. Census Bureau**; Census 2000, Summary File 1, Matrix P7; generated by Joe Smith; using American FactFinder; <a href="http://factfinder2.census.gov">http://factfinder2.census.gov</a>; (15 February 2012).
- **U.S. Census Bureau**; American Community Survey, 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table GCT0101; generated by John Smith; using American FactFinder; <a href="http://factfinder2.census.gov">http://factfinder2.census.gov</a>; (7 January 2012).
- **U.S. Census Bureau;** Census 2000, Summary File 1, Table P001; generated by Jane Jones; using American FactFinder; <a href="http://factfinder2.census.gov">http://factfinder2.census.gov</a>>; (20 February 2012)
- **U.S. Census Bureau;** 2010 Census Summary File 1; Tables P1 and QT-P1; generated by John Smith; using American FactFinder; <<a href="http://factfinder2.census.gov">http://factfinder2.census.gov</a>; (12 December 2011).



# Good Data...



- Comes from a reliable source
- ➤ Presented clearly
- ➤ Relevant to the need you have identified
- ▶ Drawn from or closely related to your target population
- ➤ Tells a story—more than just a series of numbers
- > Presented both in narrative and graphic form



# Data in a Grant Proposal

- Present data that demonstrates a need
- Reflect funding agency priorities
- If you are serving a small population, provide census tract data
- Show data and derived measures as reference points
  - Example: 3,000 families below poverty, or 15%

Census U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration U.S. Department of Commerce

# **Census Data Profiles**

Good place to start

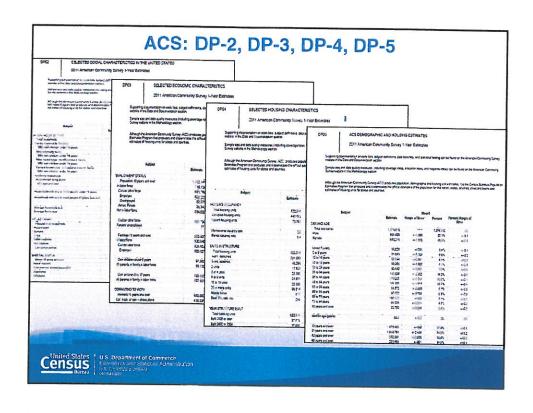


- Provide fact sheets on the social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics for different geographic areas
- About 450 different characteristics





# 



#### **ACS Margin of Error (MOE)** Margin of Error Definition: California A measure of the precision of 35,158.257 +/-2.934 an estimate at a given level of Speak only English 19 768 946 +1-63 328 confidence (90%, 95%, 99%) Speak Spanish: 10,124 555 +1-52.522 -- MOEs at the 90% confidence Speak English "very mell" 5.598.726 +/40.493 Speak English less than "very well" 4,525,829 +/-38,772 level for all published ACS Speak other languages. 5.265,656 +-39.517 estimates Speak English "very well" 2974,814 +/-30,969 Speak English less than "very well" 2290,842 +1-29.863 Born in state of residence: 18.087.383 +/-47.718 Confidence Interval Definition: Speak only English 12,734.913 +1-58.214 Sneak Spanish: 4,422,762 +/-38.304 A range that is expected to contain Speak English "very well" 1,779,239 +/-38 857 the population value of the Speak English less than "very well" 643,523 +1-15.772 Speak other languages: 929.708 +/-19 433 characteristic with a known Speak English "very well" 797,115 +/-18.647 probability Speak English less than "very well" 132 593 +15 391 Census

# **Provide Comparisons**

- Over time (2000, 2010)
  - Demonstrate emerging issues affecting your target population
  - · Be mindful of boundary changes
- Compare subset data to larger group
  - State to national
  - City/town to county or State
  - Census tract to other tracts or to city/county

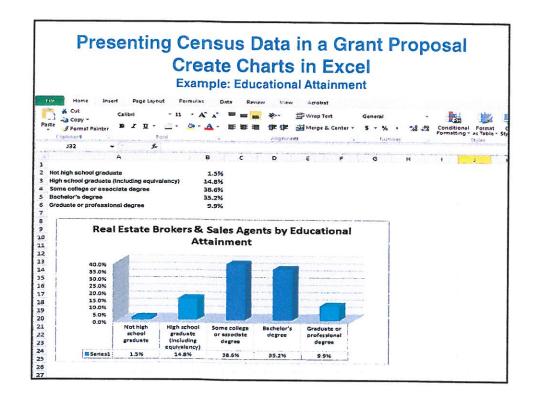


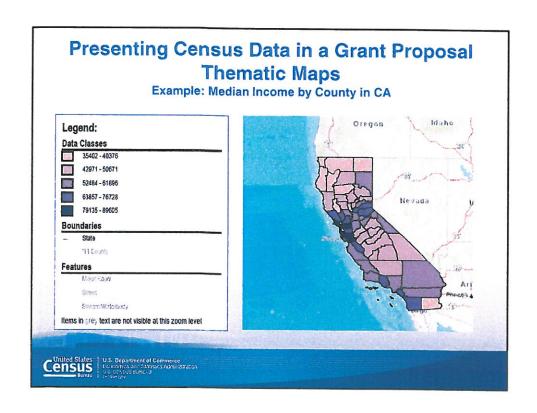
# **Charts and Graphs**

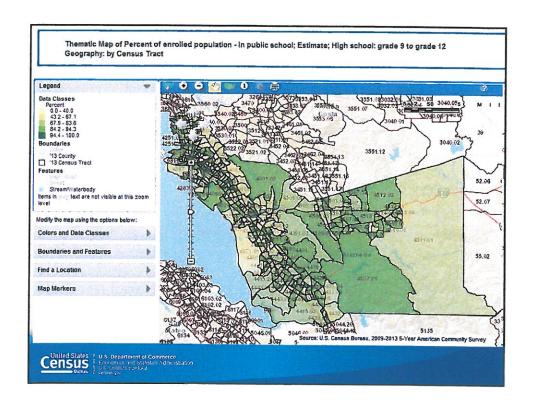
- Make sure charts, graphs, maps are reproducible in black and white
- Consider best use of limited space
- Make charts and graphs self-explanatory
  - Refer to charts and graphs in the narrative
    - "The chart on the next page illustrates increases in the Hispanic population over the past 30 years"

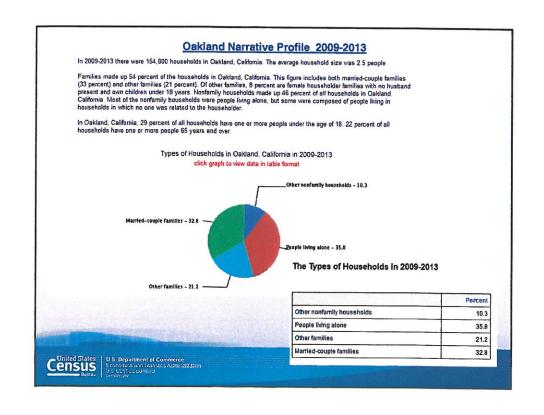


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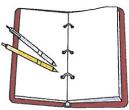




#### **Derived Measures\***

\*A unit that is determined by combining one or more measurements

- Mean = average
- Median
- Percent
- Rate





The ACS generally does a better job estimating percentages, rate, means, and medians than it does totals



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#### Income Estimates

## Mean = Average (RobertNiles.com)

Salaries of nine workers at the World Wide Widget Company:

The CEO makes \$100,000 per year,
Two managers make \$50,000 per year,
Four factory workers make \$15,000 each per year, and
Two trainees make \$9,000 each per year.

Add \$100,000 + \$50,000 + \$50,000 + \$15,000 + \$15,000 + \$15,000 + \$15,000 + \$9,000 + \$9,000, which gives you \$278,000.

Then you divide that total by 9 -- the number of values or workers in the set of data

This gives you the mean or average, which is \$30,889

Be careful! Only three of the nine workers at WWW Co. make that much money, and the other six workers don't even make half the average salary.

So what statistic should you use when you want to give some idea of what the average worker at WWW Co. is earning? Let's look at the median.



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#### Income Estimates

## Median (RobertNiles.com)

When you speak about the average worker or average household, you really want a statistic that tells you something about the worker or the household in the middle.

Again, this statistic is easy to determine because the median literally is the value in the middle. Just line up the values in your set of data, from largest to smallest. The one in the dead-center is your median. Below are the nine WWW Co. workers' salaries;

\$100,000 \$50,000 \$50,000 \$15,000 \$15,000 \$15,000 \$9,000 \$9,000

The one halfway down the list, the fifth value, is \$15,000. That's the median. If you have an even number of values, split the difference between the two in the middle.

Comparing the mean (\$30,889) to the median (\$15,000) gives you an idea how widely the values in your dataset are spread apart.



# **Summary: Where to Start**



# Four Tips for Using Census Data

- Get the detail you want—census, surveys and estimates
- 2. Understand census jargon
- 3. Use census data to draw comparisons between your community/neighborhood
- 4. Use census data to look at changes over time.

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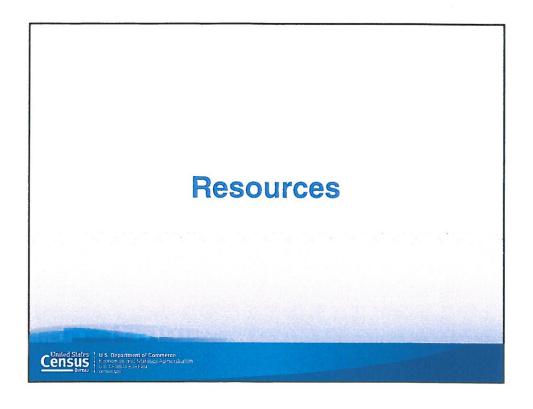
Construction

## **Limitations of Census Bureau Data**

- Some concepts / definitions not easily understood – footnote
- Might not be in exact tabular form as funding agency is requesting -- download
- Can be cumbersome to get specific data by tract or other small area -- aggregate
- Most socio-economic census data based on a sample estimate – consider MOE

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#### Resources:

- User Handbooks on the American Community Survey www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance for data users/handbooks/
- American Community Survey Subject Definitions
   www.census.gov/acs/www/data documentation/documentation main/
- Comparing ACS Data <u>www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance for data users/comparing data/</u>
- Census Questionnaires: www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/questionnaires/
- ACS Questionnaires: www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/questionnaire archive/
- 2013 Code List
- http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\_documentation/CodeLists/2013\_ACS\_C ode\_Lists.pdf
- Narrative Profiles 2009-2013
- http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\_documentation/data\_narrative\_profiles/

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