

Finding Data from the Census Bureau

Evidence-Based Public Health Practice Step 2: Quantify the Issue

The Census Bureau can help you locate important demographic information about your community. There are many important publications coming from the Census Bureau. This handout focuses on the Decennial Census.

Go to the CHARTing Health Information for Texas Web site:
<http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/charting>

and click on **Sociodemographic & Community Characteristics**.

A screenshot of a website navigation menu. The menu items are: Glossary of Terms, Rates & Formulas, Data for: Cause of Illness or Death, Maternal & Child Health, Sociodemographic & Community Characteristics (highlighted with a blue box), Environmental & Occupational Health, and Other Resources. To the right of the menu, there is a text block that reads: "level. The research show dependent on several fa not only to data source resources that provide d. These Web pages can s members-- anyone who. The organizations listed to this Web site. Please public health."

Click on **Sociodemographic Data**.

Scroll down about 1/3 of the way down to **US Census Bureau**.

Find Census Tracts

To research a specific neighborhood, you will need to know the Census tracts for that neighborhood.

To start, click on the link to **American Factfinder**.

A screenshot of a page titled "Sociodemographic Data". The page lists several categories: Education & Schools, Employment & Labor, Environmental & Occupational Expos, Housing, Risk Behaviors, Sociodemographic Data (circled in blue), and Traffic/Travel Data. The page also includes a search bar and a "Excel" link.

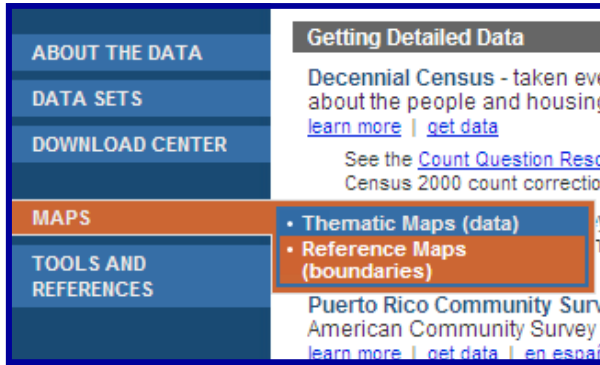
A screenshot of the US Census Bureau American Factfinder website. The page title is "US Census Bureau". The main content is a list of links and resources:

- [US Counties](#)
This is an easy to use resource, allowing you to retrieve tables for your categories.
- [Census 2000](#)
 - [American Factfinder](#)
 - [Link to Decennial Data Sets](#)
 - [Summary File 1-- what is it? \(100% data\)](#)
 - [Summary File 2-- what is it? \(100% data\)](#)
 - [Summary File 3-- what is it? \(Sample data\)](#)
 - [Summary File 4-- what is it? \(Sample data\)](#)
 - [American Community Survey \(2000 to 2006\)](#)
 - [Link to American Community Survey Data Sets \(2000 to 2006\)](#)
 - [Data Tables](#)
 - [2003 Data Profiles](#)
 - [American Community Survey Ranking Tables \(2000 to 2006\) by county, and MSA level](#)
 - [Annual Population Estimates \(2006 to 2007\)](#)
 - [Texas Quick Facts \(2000 data, city level\)](#)
 - [Archived population estimates \(<1980 to mid-2000's\)](#)
 - [Estimated Daytime Population \(Census 2000\)](#)
 - [Income Main Page](#)
 - [Poverty Main Page](#)
 - [Survey of Income and Program Participation \(SIPP\)](#)
 - [Access Data Sets](#)
 - [Atlas of the United States](#)
Has more than 800 maps using data from historical censuses as well as

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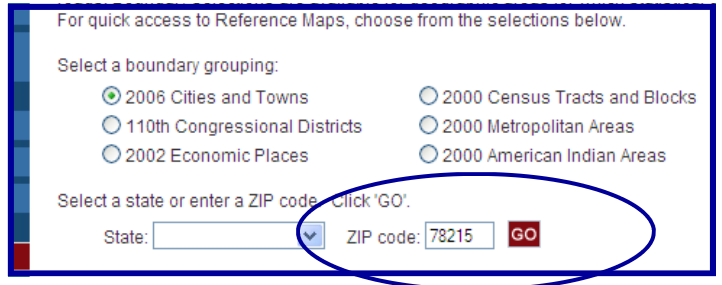
1.

At this screen, scroll over to **MAPS** and select **Reference Maps (boundaries)**.



2.

Enter the zip code you want, then click on **GO**



3.

Click on:

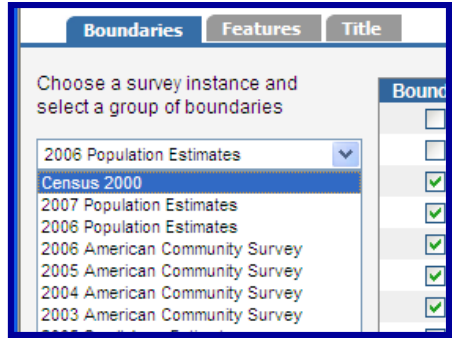
Change ...

- Boundaries and features



4.

Change the survey instance from 2006 Population Estimates to **Census 2000**.



5.

Uncheck all of the boxes in this view *except* State, 2000 County, and 2000 Census Tract.

Click on **Update**.



6.

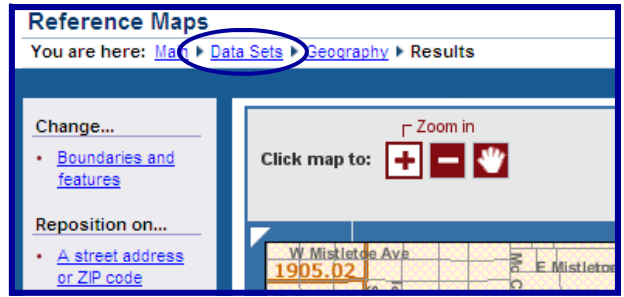
This is map of the general vicinity of the ZIP code searched for. The 4-digit numbers are the Census tracts that are within the ZIP code searched.

The Census tracts of the neighborhood of choice for the following example are:

1101, 1102, 1109, 1301

This the area to the right (east) of I-10 and south of I-35 on the map to the right.

Click on **Data Sets** (towards the top).

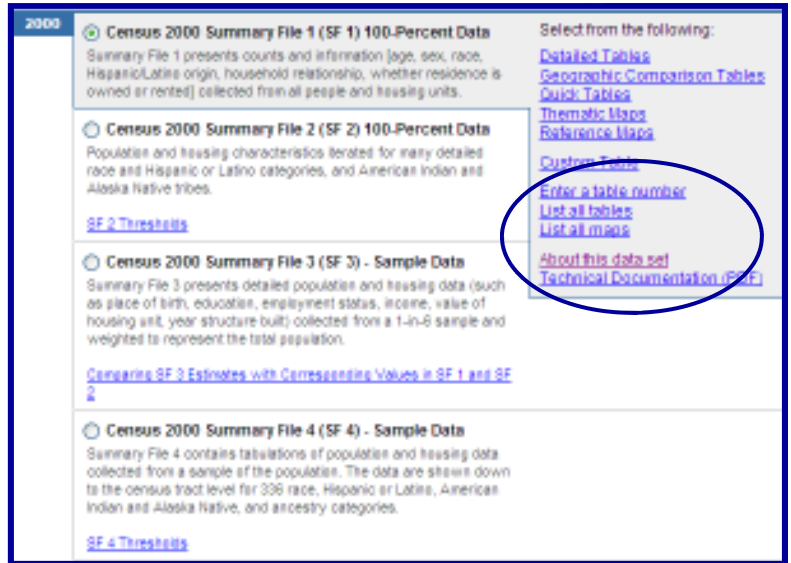


There are 2 files with 100% data and 2 major files with sample (approximately 1 in 6) data.

To view what is covered in any of the files, click on the radio button next to it, then click on **About this data set** to the right.

This example will show **Summary File 1 (SF1) Sample Data**.

Click on **List all tables** on the right.



Hispanics in 2000 Census

The Census Bureau modified how it classified Hispanics with the 2000 Census. In past censuses, Hispanics were counted as a “race”, not an ethnicity. This meant that when you see a number for “Whites” from 1990, it does not include those who are Hispanic. Rather, Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics were mutually exclusive.

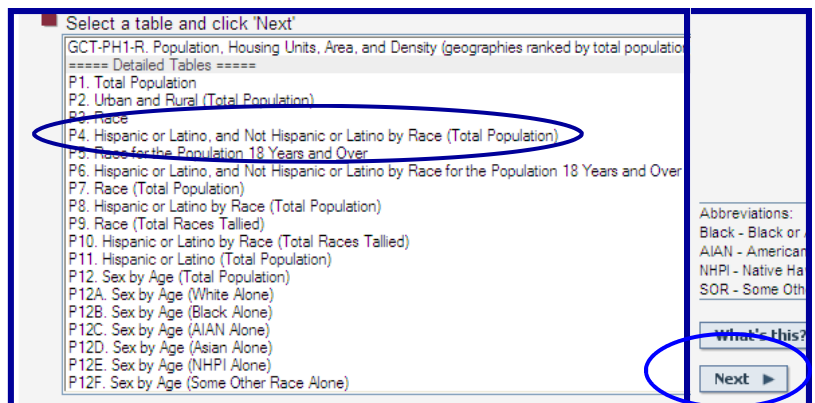
In 2000, however, Hispanics could be counted as Whites and Hispanic or Black and Hispanic. But, health statistics from Texas still treat the 3 groups as mutually exclusive. When you look at data and you need to compare racial make-up, decide up front how you are going to count Hispanics— as the Census Bureau does or as Texas does. You can get data from the Census Bureau showing Hispanic or Latino/Not Hispanic or Latino; just make certain you select the appropriate tables.

Find Census Data

Scroll through the list of tables until you get to =====**Detailed Tables**=====

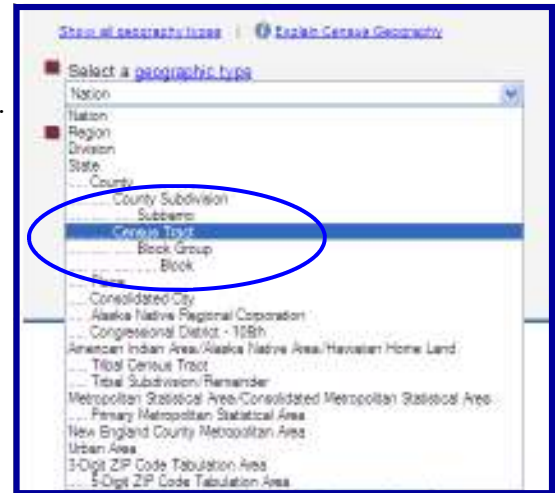
P4: Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race (Total Population)

Click on **Next**.



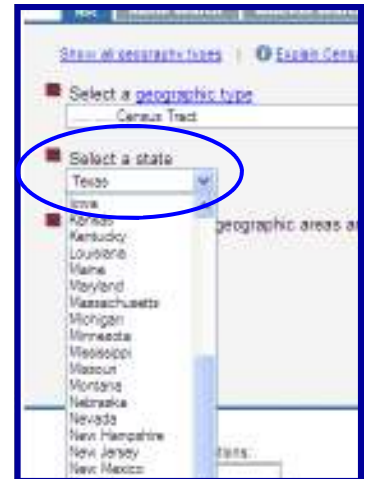
Click on the drop down box under **Select a geographic type.**

Select **Census Tract.**



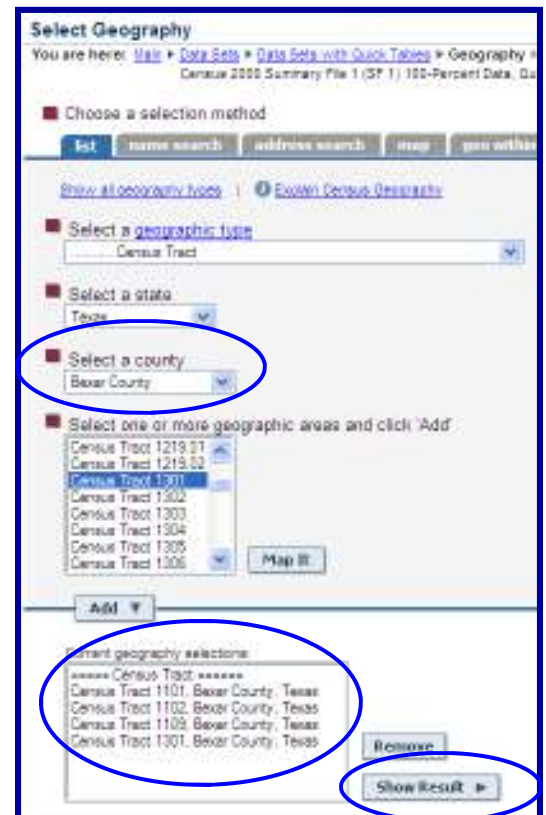
Click on the drop down box under **Select a state.**

Select **Texas.**



Select the county you need (this example is using **Bexar County**).

Select the 4 Census tracts from the previous page (**1101, 1102, 1109, 1301**). Find the Census tract in the list (it is in low to high numerical order), click on it, then click on the **Add** button.



Click on the **Show Result** button.

In this case, the results appear as a single table on a single page (this may not always be so, depending on how many Census tracts you select).

You can see how specific the data gets. Here, there is quite a bit of information about non-Hispanics (there are tables to get country of origin for Hispanics; see for example PCT-11: Hispanic or Latino by Specific Origin).

Another change in the 2000 Census is that individuals can specify if they are more than one race (remember, Hispanic is an ethnicity). How much does it matter in the grand scheme of things? In the example above, Census Tract 1101 has 3,316 people living in it. Of those people, 1,912 are Hispanic and 1,404 are not. Of those who are *not*, 1,366 (97.3%) have declared themselves to be only one race. Totaling up all 4 Census tracts, 62 people declared themselves more than one race out of 9,062. This comes to .62% of the entire population. As you assess your community, you will just need to keep in mind that figures can slip and slide as a result of these variations in ethnicity.

Detailed Tables

You are here: [Home](#) > [Data Sets](#) > [Data Sets with Detailed Tables](#) > [Geography](#) > [Tables](#) > [Results](#)

Use the links above to change your results | [Options](#) | [Print / Download](#) | [Related Items](#)

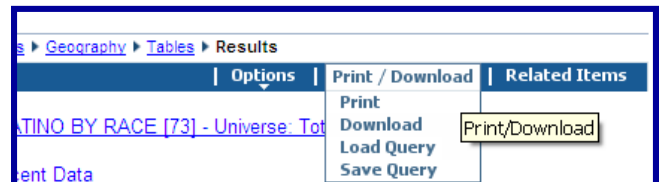
[P4_HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE \[73\] - Universe: Total population](#)
Data Set: [Census 2000 Summary File 1 \(SF 1\) 100-Percent Data](#)

NOTE: For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, definitions, and count corrections see <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/geo/data/cen/sf1.html>

	Census Tract 1101, Bexar County, Texas	Census Tract 1102, Bexar County, Texas	Census Tract 1109, Bexar County, Texas	Census Tract 1301, Bexar County, Texas
Total	3,316	1,031	750	3,915
Hispanic or Latino	1,912	740	540	2,632
Not Hispanic or Latino:	1,404	333	207	1,280
Population of one race:	1,366	328	206	1,262
White alone	1,017	125	155	167
Black or African American alone	207	198	34	1,071
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	17	3	1	6
Asian alone	40	1	16	4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	3	0	0	0
Some other race alone	2	1	0	14
Population of two or more races:	38	5	1	18
Population of two races:	35	5	1	16
White; Black or African American	1	0	0	11
White; American Indian and Alaska Native	17	3	0	2
White; Asian	5	0	1	0
White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2	0	0	0
White; Some other race	2	1	0	2
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native	3	0	0	1
Black or African American; Asian	0	1	0	0
Black or African American; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0	0	0
Black or African American; Some other race	1	0	0	0
American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian	0	0	0	0
American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
American Indian and Alaska Native; Some other race	0	0	0	0
Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0	0	0
Asian; Some other race	1	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some other race	1	0	0	0
Population of three races:	1	0	0	0

Download Census Data

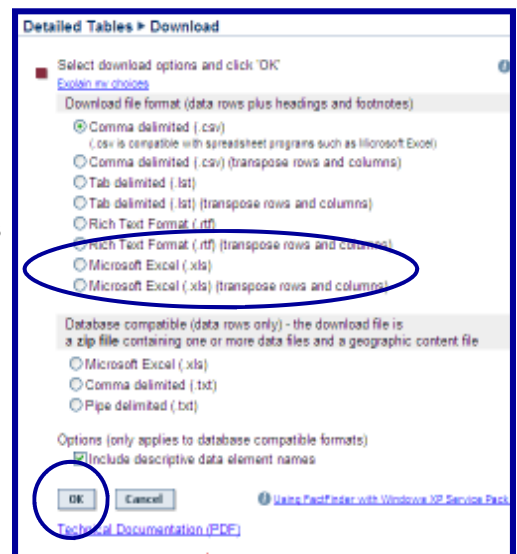
If you want to do some statistical manipulation with the data, you can download the table in one of several formats.



Scroll over **Print / Download** and select **Download**.

Select the format you want. Microsoft Excel is often a good option. Or you may decide the data needs to be transposed—the row labels become columns and vice versa.

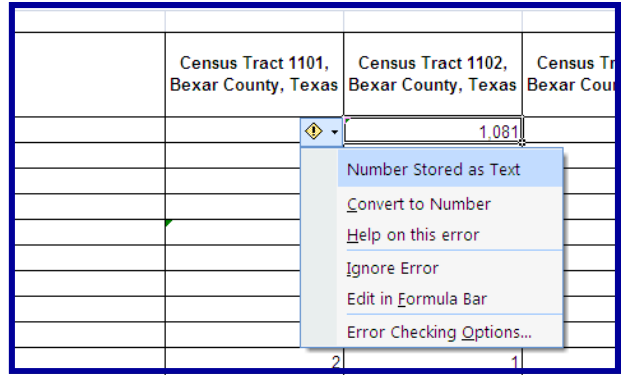
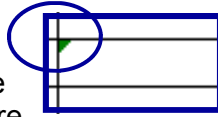
In this example, download as a **Microsoft Excel (.xls)** file (not transposed).



Click **OK**.

(Note: you may need to hold down the **<CTRL>** key if you have a pop-up blocker enabled.)

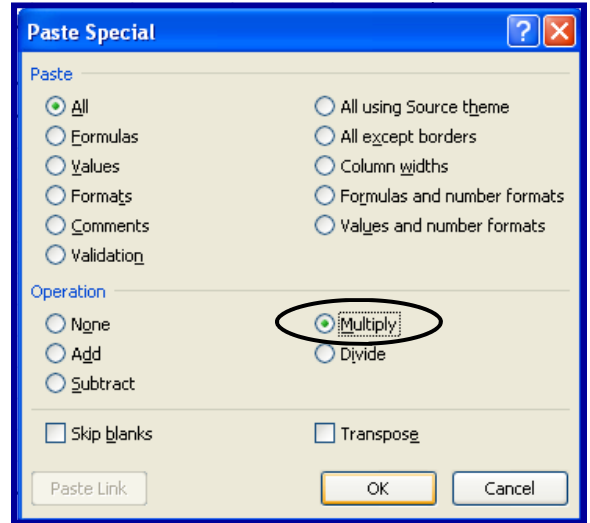
At the next pop-up window, **Open** the file when asked. Take a look at the data— are there any comment tags? Look for the little green triangle in the upper left corner of a cell to determine if there is a problem.



In this case, some of the numbers are stored as text. Click on the icon, then click on **Convert to Number** on each cell that has the tag.

Another way to convert text to numbers is:

- Click on a blank cell
- Enter the number 1
- Right click to **Copy**
- Highlight the cell(s) you want to convert
- Right click to **Paste Special**
- Select **Operation—Multiply**
- Click **OK**



Merge Data for All Census Tracts

Copy the row labels from rows 8 to 17 and paste them next to the last column.

In the next column over, enter a header for the column.

Below it, enter a formula that will add all of the columns that have data you want. In this case, the formula is **=SUM(B8:E8)**

It could have just as easily been: **=B8+C8+D8+E8**. The latter gets a little clumsy, though, when you have many columns to tally. The **SUM** function is useful for adding several columns or rows in one fell swoop.

Once you have entered your formula and you know it's working, click on the cell with the formula, then drag down so that you highlight all of the rows you want to aggregate data.

	E	F	G
99, Texas	Census Tract 1301, Bexar County, Texas		Total for all 4 Census Tracts
750	3,915	Total:	9,062
343	2,635	Hispanic or Latino	5838
207	1,280	Not Hispanic or Latino	3224
206	4,252	Population of one race:	3162
155	157	White alone	1464
34	1,071	alone	1590
1	6	Native alone	27
16	4	Asian alone	61
0	0	Pacific Islander alone	3
0	14	Some other race alone	17

Hold down the **<Ctrl>** key and type the letter **d**. This will insert the formula into the cells below the one with original formula. You now have data that can be used for a variety of purposes, whether it is to write up a report or to help you better formulate prevention activities in that neighborhood.