Census Bureau: American Factfinder

10 Takeaways for Data Users

1. ACS Data = Estimates; Decennial Data = hard numbers.

2. ACS is divided into: 1-year estimates and 5-year estimates (population of 65,000 is cut-off for 1-yr. data).

3. American Factfinder (AFF) is the main data portal: www.factfinder.census.gov

4. When searching for data, select your geographies first. Go to: factfinder.census.gov -> advanced search (show me all) -> geographies.

5. Census Tracts are "safe" stable levels of geography to use.

6. Margin of Error gives you a value that fluctuates on either side of the reported estimate.

7. Bookmarking a table creates a URL link than can be saved and emailed.

8. Tables are categorized: B = Base table, S = Subject table, DP = Data Profile, C = Collapsed table.

9. DP Tables have percentages in them (DP02, DP03, DP04) which are good for mapping and generalizing.

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