



USING THE 5- YEAR AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Orientation and Overview

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MAY 2010 – WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Presenter: Susan Schechter, Director of the ACS
 - Differences between ACS and 2000-Census Long Form data.
 - Schedule of release for yearly, 3-year and 5-year estimates
 - Census geography for ACS, including the transition to 2010 census geography and population controls with the release of the 2006-2010 ACS
 - Information about Margins of Error for ACS, which are 1.75 times larger than the 2000 Census



OCTOBER 2010 – OAKLAND, CA

- Presenter: Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau
 - Estimates are controlled to Census Bureau's population estimates which are based on the decennial census, and therefore will become less accurate over the decade.
 - 2005-09 ACS and 2006-2010 ACS will be controlled to different numbers – likely more of a concern for disruption in the series for counts than for rates.



OCTOBER 2010 CONT'D.

- Recommended using 2005-09 to look back to Census 2000 and 2006-10 to start looking forward.
- There are substantial standard errors for small geographies like census tracts.
 - Recommendation: Aggregating geographies when possible to help increase reliability.



EXAMPLE: AGGREGATING SMALL GEOGRAPHY TO INCREASE RELIABILITY

Percent of Children under Age 18 Living in Poverty (Subject Table S17001)

Location	Numerator	Denominator	Percent	MOE (%)
Census Tract 1402, New Haven , CT	525	540	97.2	46.4
Census Tract 1403, New Haven , CT	231	655	35.3	16.7
Census Tract 1404, New Haven , CT	307	842	36.5	26.2
Census Tract 1405, New Haven , CT	429	1,157	37.1	16.3
Census Tract 1406, New Haven , CT	594	1,408	42.2	13.9
Total for combined tracts	2,086	4,602	45.3	8.1

Source: Mark Mather, PRB



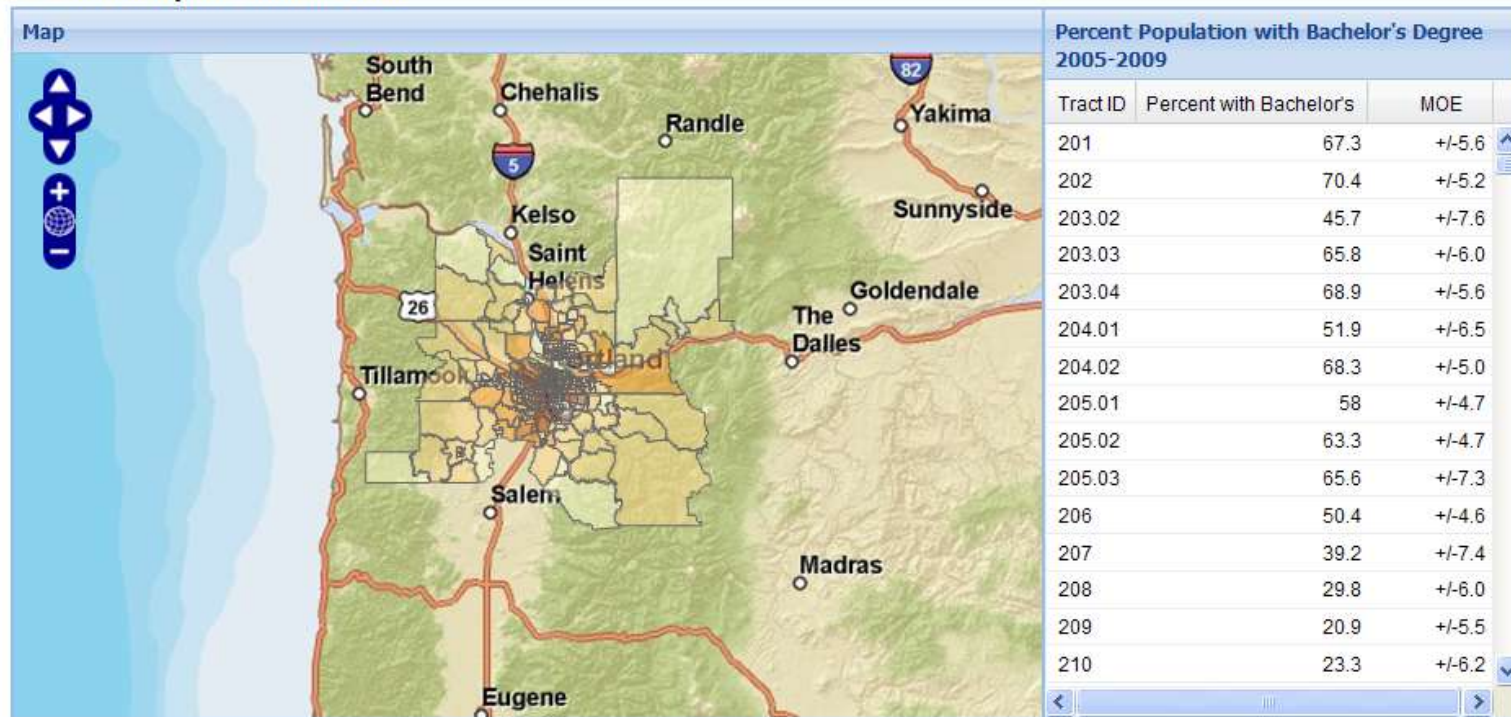
NNIP RESOURCES

- www2.urban.org/nnip/nnipacs.html
 - Links to presentations and video from partnership meetings (in progress)
 - Examples of how partners are using the ACS
 - Email me – lhendey@urban.org



EXAMPLE - PORTLAND

Clickable Map of Census Tracts



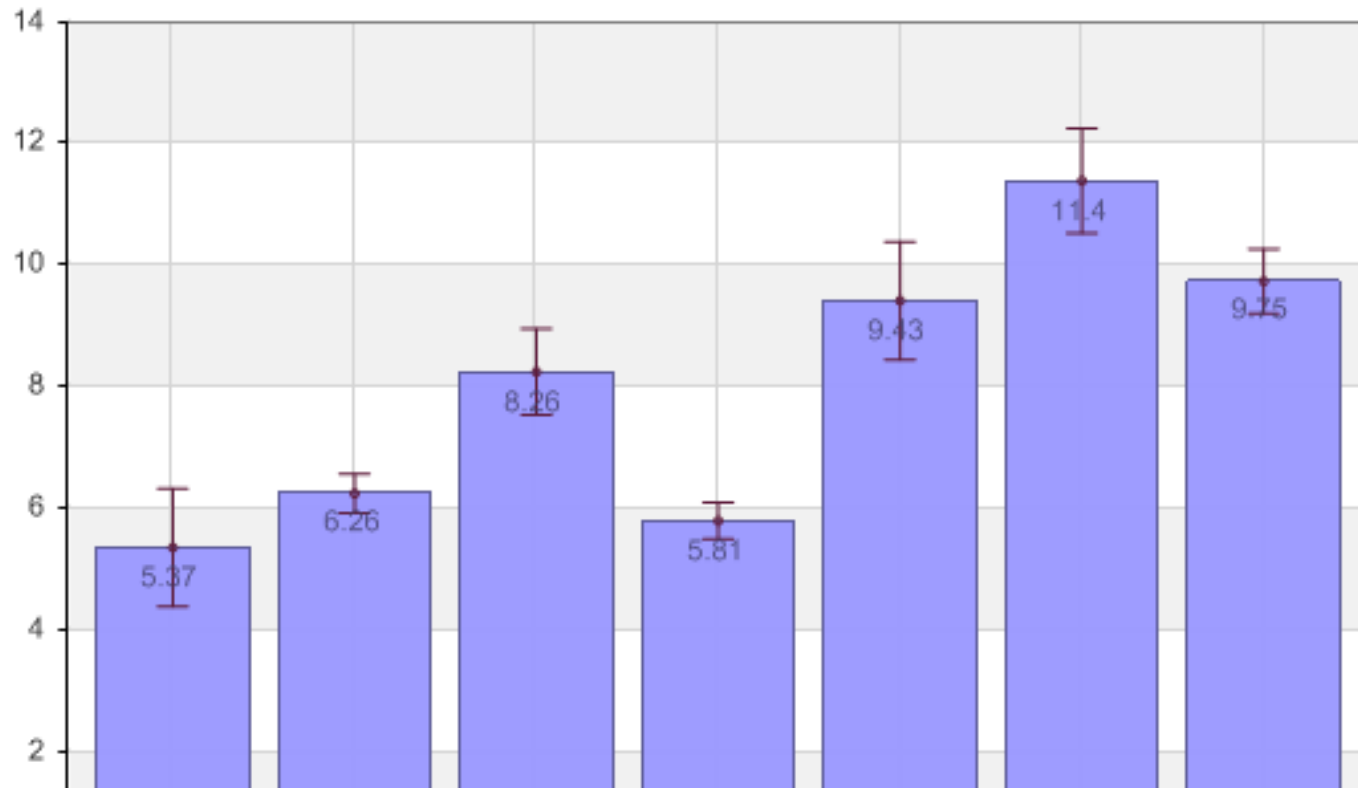
<http://mkn.research.pdx.edu/2011/01/census-data-show-regional-disparities-in-educational-attainment/>



EXAMPLE – INDIANAPOLIS

Map Chart Table About The Data

2008 Single Female Householder Families with Own Children Under Age 18 as % of All Households



EXAMPLE – GRAND RAPIDS

- Used for Census data – but format could be used to display margins of error?

Age	Value	Average*	Lowest*	Highest*	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Population under 5 years old (2000) ¹ map	7.2 %	6.0 %	4.3 %	7.8 %	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Population 5 to 17 years old (2000) ¹ map	21.6 %	18.8 %	14.7 %	22.2 %	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Population 18 to 19 years old (2000) ¹ map	2.6 %	2.9 %	1.6 %	10.2 %	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Population 20 to 24 years old (2000) ¹ map					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Population 25 to 34 years old (2000) ¹ map					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Population 35 to 44 years old (2000) ¹ map					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Population 45 to 64 years old (2000) ¹ map					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % Population over 64 years old (2000) ¹ map					

Lowest to Highest

0 100%

Actual Value Avg. Value

*Note: Average, lowest, highest are calculated f

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1)



NNIP RESOURCES

- UI is working on releasing ACS files at geographies from tract to nation with already tabulated indicators & standard errors for each indicator
- Programs and datasets for producing Census 2000 standard errors
- Think about what further resources NNIP could provide
 - Tip sheets? Guides? Examples?



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Poll Questions
- ACS Advocacy Update – Flo Gutierrez
- Debriefing on Community ACS Training – Phyllis Betts
- Discussion

