Redistricting Data Hub

July 1, 2021 | How to Answer Questions About Your Community

redistricting
data hub

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Agenda

- What is a Community of Interest (COI)?
- What Questions Can You Answer with Data?
- A Demonstration

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST (COI)

What are *Communities of Interest*
and how might they be measured?

How to Define?

- A COI is a mapping criterion that redistricting bodies might include

- Definitions range from a sentence requiring map drawers respect COIs to several paragraphs defining what does or does not constitute a COI
  - Generally, a neighborhood, community, or group of people who share policy concerns and could benefit from being kept whole in a district

How Common?

- Half of all states require consideration of COIs as a redistricting criterion
  - May also be adopted by legislative committees, commissions, or courts

- Major point of public participation and influence
  - RDH Data can provide supporting evidence in testimony

How to Measure?

- Can be formed from:
  - Existing geographic areas
  - Common interests and concerns
  - Shared community spaces
  - Many other commonalities!

What about My State?

- Q: Does my state require consideration of COIs in redistricting?
- Q: How does my state define a COI?
- Q: Where and how can I submit my COI map to the redistricting body?

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- Q: Does my state require consideration of COIs in redistricting?
- Q: How does my state define a COI?
- Q: Where and how can I submit my COI map to the redistricting body?

- A: Email info@redistrictingdatahub.org!

How to Measure?

- Members of the community are usually best suited to identify and define their own community

WHAT QUESTIONS CAN YOU ANSWER WITH THE DATA?

Some of the data we make available, and how they might provide i*nsights on your COIs*

RDH DATA

- RDH provides data that can answer questions about your community:
  - **American Community Survey (ACS)** data (Census Bureau)
  - **Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)** data (Census Bureau)
  - **Voter File** and **Commercial Voter File** data (L2)
  - **Population Projections** (HaystaqDNA)

ACS 5-Year Estimates

- Data based on samples, and averaged over five years
- Includes total population, and population by race and ethnicity
- Available from 2010 to 2019 for block group, census tract, county, and state
- Both SHP and CSV format

CVAP Estimates

- Data based on samples, and averaged over five years
- Includes estimates of the citizen population 18 years of age and older, by race and ethnicity
  - RDH modifies the categories to match the OMB categories
- Available from 2010 to 2019 for block group, census tract, county, and state
- Both SHP and CSV format

Voter File Data

- Data based on voter registration files
- Includes counts of voters by age, ethnicity, party affiliation, and voting history
  - All counts correspond to the voters registered as of March 9, 2021
- Available at the 2010 block level
- CSV format only

Commercial Voter File Data

- Includes numerous appended variables, such as:
  - Language
  - Religion
  - Education
  - Employment and occupation
  - And more
- Available at the 2010 block level
- CSV format only

Population Projections

- Data based on statistical methods and estimates
- Includes population projections for P1 and P2 tables
  - P1 = population by race
  - P2 = population by race and Hispanic / non-Hispanic
- Available at the 2020 and 2030 block and block group level
- Both SHP and CSV format

MetaData

- Every data set comes with metadata, which explains:
  - what each field in the dataset contains
  - a brief outline of the methodology

GEOIDs

- For example, the metadata for all these datasets identify GEOID as the first field, which is the Census Bureau's unique identifier for every level of geography

Hierarchy Diagrams

Diagrams showing how levels of geography relate to one another.

Area Type	GEOID Structure	Number of Digits	Example Geographic Area	Example GEOID
State	STATE	2	Texas	48
County	STATE+COUNTY	2+3=5	Harris County, TX	48201
County Subdivision	STATE+COUNTY+COUSUB	2+3+5=10	Pasadena CCD, Harris County, TX	4820192975
Places	STATE+PLACE	2+5=7	Houston, TX	4835000
Census Tract	STATE+COUNTY+TRACT	2+3+6=11	Census Tract 2231 in Harris County, TX	48201223100
Block Group	STATE+COUNTY+TRACT+BLOCK GROUP	2+3+6+1=12	Block Group 1 in Census Tract 2231 in Harris County, TX	482012231001
Block*	STATE+COUNTY+TRACT+BLOCK	2+3+6+4=15 (Note – some blocks also contain a one character suffix (A, B, C, ect.)	Block 1050 in Census Tract 2231 in Harris County, TX	482012231001050

Source: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-identifiers.html

A DEMONSTRATION

What can I do with these data
to *learn more about my community*?

Merging Data in Google Sheets

- `=VLOOKUP($A1,ny_acs5_2019_bg!$A:$AF,COLUMN()-1,FALSE)`
  - $A1 = look for the value in this cell in the current tab
  - ny_acs_2019_bg = look for this value in the other tab
  - !$A:$AF = the columns to search for in the other tab
  - COLUMN()-1, = place the first matching value found in the column to the left of your current column
  - FALSE = place only exact matches
- Can be done with other levels of geography, as long as you have matching GEOIDs
- This approach can be used to analyze proposed districts

Final Notes

- Redistricting data expected late September, but the Census Legacy Format Redistricting Data File will be released by August 16
  - RDH will process and host tabulated, user friendly version of the data within one week of release
- Join our mailing list today to be notified: https://redistrictingdatahub.org/newsletter/

Feedback and Support

- Survey link: http://bit.ly/RDHfeedback
  - Sign up for additional training
  - Provide feedback on website

- For time-sensitive data support inquiries: info@redistrictingdatahub.org