Agenda

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

- 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 insights 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)
AVAILABLE DATA

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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Type</th>
<th>GEOID Structure</th>
<th>Number of Digits</th>
<th>Example Geographic Area</th>
<th>Example GEOID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>STATE+COUNTY</td>
<td>2+3=5</td>
<td>Harris County, TX</td>
<td>48201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Subdivision</td>
<td>STATE+COUNTY+COUSUB</td>
<td>2+3+5=10</td>
<td>Pasadena CCD, Harris County, TX</td>
<td>48201 92975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places</td>
<td>STATE+PLACE</td>
<td>2+5=7</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>48350 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract</td>
<td>STATE+COUNTY+TRACT</td>
<td>2+3+6=11</td>
<td>Census Tract 2231 in Harris County, TX</td>
<td>48201 223100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block Group</td>
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<td>2+3+6+1=12</td>
<td>Block Group 1 in Census Tract 2231 in Harris County, TX</td>
<td>48201 2231001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block*</td>
<td>STATE+COUNTY+TRACT+BLOCK</td>
<td>2+3+6+4=15 (Note – some blocks also contain a one character suffix (A, B, C, ect.))</td>
<td>Block 1050 in Census Tract 2231 in Harris County, TX</td>
<td>48201 2231001050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

◇ Sign up for additional training
◇ Provide feedback on website

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