

NWX-US DEPT OF COMMERCE

**January 26, 2021
1:00 pm CT**

Coordinator: All participants are in a listen-only mode for the duration of today's call. As a reminder this call is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect at this time. Now I would like to turn the call over to your host, Deb Rivera. You may begin. Thank you.

Deb Rivera: Thank you very much. All right well good afternoon and a warm welcome to everyone who's joined us. Thank you so much for being with us today.

We are very excited to be hosting this Q&A Webinar on data.census.gov. As (Jeff) stated my name is Deb Rivera and I will be the moderator for this event. In today's session our speaker Tyson Weister will be spending some time going over the most frequently asked questions on data.census.gov, and our colleague Jessica Barnett will be monitoring the chat and pulling some of your most pressing questions which I will then read out loud to Tyson. That's going to be towards the latter half of the Webinar.

Now having said that I would like to remind you all to please be mindful not to include sensitive or personal information in the chat or with the questions that you submit because we are going to be reading some of these out loud and we are recording to later share this publicly.

So today we will not be taking questions via the phone and you will remain in listen-only mode for the duration of the call. So I would like everyone to please take a moment to locate the chat feature in your WebEx event screen.

If you don't already have the chat panel open and active, you can activate it by hovering your mouse over the WebEx event screen and selecting the speech bubble icon which is typically located on the bottom right corner of your screen, labeled Chat. To submit your questions please be sure to select All Panelists from the drop-down menu.

Now we hope to address as many questions as we can in the allocated one hour, but if we do not get to your questions, we will be providing an email address where you can submit your questions 24/7, 365 days a year. We have a team of experts working year-round to help you.

Now one last thing here before we get started. Once we conclude today's session, our Evaluation Survey will pop up on your screen as you exit the WebEx event. We would greatly appreciate it if you could take a moment to fill that out and submit it. You can tell us how we can improve our Webinars and topics that you'd like us to cover in future Webinars.

Now I'm sure that we have a lot of questions to get through so I'm going to go ahead and hand things off to Tyson Weister. Thank you, Tyson.

Tyson Weister: Great thanks Deb and thank you all so much for tuning in to the Webinar. We'll go ahead and get started with the information that Deb had mentioned earlier. We'll walk through some common questions.

The kind of way that we got to these questions was looking at all of the information that gets sent to us through cedsci.feedback@census.gov. We looked at questions that we get on a regular basis and then we pulled those to go over and broke them into four defining sections.

So you can see there's a part on finding data, a part on understanding error messages and overcoming performance issues. We'll go over answers to common questions on selecting geographies as well as downloading and printing tables and then of course open it up generic Q&A that will be selected from the chat at the end.

So let's go ahead and get started on questions related to finding data. On a basic level but really key in understanding how the site works one common question we get is how do I find data for multiple topics? And you can see here on this screen as an example.

So if you're looking for data you want to run separate searches unless you want your data cross tabulated. So if I want data on percent veterans and median household income I'll want to run two separate searches.

You can see in the first illustration here I've selected the topic tagged for veterans and then I've ran that search and I was able to find a table that shows 6.9% of the population is a veteran. Then I ran another search where I selected income and earnings, ran the search and got to the median household income data for the United States.

The only time that you want to combine topics together is when you want that data cross tabulated. So if I want data on median income of veterans, in that case I would want to select the veterans topic tag as well as the income and

earnings, run the search and that would take me to a table that shows the medium income for veterans specifically.

So just a note, you know, select these tags together when you want the data cross tabulated. When you're running these searches it's looking for pre-made tables that are tagged with a particular topic or set of topics. It is not creating tables with the topics you select on-the-fly.

Another common question we get regarding what data are available on data.census.gov. At a high level I've outlined on the left-hand side of this slide here we have American Community Survey data from the 2010 to the most recent 2019 release. We have decennial census data from Census 2000 and the 2010 census and data from our economic census and surveys and programs from 2012 through the present.

That's kind of a high level look. If you want more detailed information listing on all of the service and programs and even the different types of tables you can visit the link on the left and that will show you a detailed chart. We're showing just a snippet of that chart here on the slides but certainly more detailed information available.

Usually when we get questions about data availability it's actually folks looking for data that's not quite on our site just yet. So I've outlined some of that information on the right-hand side for you as well as some links for other ways to access this information.

So lots of folks wanting data from the Population Estimates Program. We've just begun adding information from that survey to our site. So you'll see a table on our site and lots of other information that you're used to accessing.

That data are still available and you can access it through the program Web page.

You can also look at the decennial census data before Census 2000. That data are available on the Web page file transfer protocol site. And if you need help accessing this historical information you can contact library@census.gov, links included to access data from the American Community Surveys from 2005 through 2009, as well as a special tabulation of the American Communities Survey for the Equal Opportunity Employment or EEO tabulation available on the FTP site and a new table tool that's in beta.

And then your Econ service and programs are listed as well. The data before 2012 are still available on the FTP site and program Web pages.

Moving on, how do I select my survey? You maybe want data from Decennial census as an example and you want to specify that in your search criteria. When you click these Surveys button on the Advanced search it actually gives you lots of detailed options for specific data sets. For the Decennial Census as an example they all start with DEC and there are 29 different options to choose from.

If that is a little too specific and maybe you don't know which one you specifically want or need, we have laid out some of the most popular types of surveys on the right-hand side of the screen here. So for the Decennial Census if you're not sure where to start, give summary file one a try. It has a pretty comprehensive set of data spanning the whole gamut of available geographies.

The American Community Survey data profiles are a very popular place to start. It gives you information for the most popular statistics from the ACS in just four tables. It gives you estimates and percentages. And then if you see

something that is of interest and you want more detail that's not through the data profiles you can look at some of the other American Community Survey's tables as well. And for the Economic Census, if you're not sure which one to choose as a starting point, pick the one that says US Basic in the label.

Moving from broad questions on accessing data to more specific ones, how can I get data for population density? Unfortunately, the tables that contain population density were not able to be migrated to data.census.gov. But the good news is that we have easy to calculate information both on data.census.gov and Geography Resources. So the formula is pretty straightforward.

You would just take total population divide that by the planned areas. Data on total population is easily accessible on data.census.gov and you have three different options to choose from whether you want the decennial census, American Community Survey or the high level total population data from the Population Estimates Program. That is the one table that is available on our site from that survey and program.

I've also included the table IDs here that you might want to consider using. Once you've found that for your geography, downloaded the data you can get the land area data through a separate geography resource called the Gazetteer files, pretty straightforward to use. You'll just visit the link, select your geography type and download the file. And then that will contain for your geographic areas a column that says a land, for land in square meters and a land_square miles for your land area in square miles.

Another common question, how do I access data by race. We could certainly have an entire Webinar dedicated to accessing data on race and ethnicity but

on a high level just want to show you the pathway to get to that data. On the advanced search you'll click on topics and choose race and ethnicity -- pretty straightforward get this far.

Then as you're working through the panel you'll just want to keep in mind that a checkbox is a final selection. Any words and phrases that you see without checkboxes give you more detailed options to choose from.

So if I wanted data for Asian I would see in the third column the word for Asian it doesn't have a checkbox. So once I click that it gives me a few different options to choose from. From here it may not be obviously apparent whether I would want to click the box for Asian at the top or maybe some of these other boxes, for instance the third option that says 012 Asian Alone.

What are the differences between these? Well your option at the top that has no codes give you data from our standard set of tables, tables like the ACS detail tables, data profiles or summary file one. And you want to use these in general to get totals for most population groups as well as characteristics for the major race groups, groups like Asian, Black or African-American, American Indian or Alaska native, et cetera,

When you choose the other option for instance 012 Asian Alone when it has a code in the checkbox that gives you data for a completely different set of tables. We call these our iterated tables. They include products like the American Community Survey selected population profiles, selected population tables, Decennial Census Summary Files 2 and 4. And we recommend using these with codes when you want details characteristics of the detailed population groups.

Like if you wanted the income of the Japanese population this would be a good kind of pathway to find the appropriate checkbox with the code. So just kind of pointing out the pathway on an overall level and then your checkboxes without codes and your checkboxes with codes give you results for different tables.

If you're not sure which one to choose I would recommend giving the one at the top a try as a start. And if you're not getting the results you expect, see if there's a more appropriate detailed category with a code and try that as well. You get two different sets of table results.

Deb Rivera: And Tyson we do have a follow-up question.

Tyson Weister: Sure.

Deb Rivera: Okay so this question comes from (David) and he asks, "I'm a doctoral student and I am researching public higher education in the mid-Atlantic region and COVID-19. How would we search both demographic and economic data?"

Tyson Weister: And that's a great question. I would recommend when you say economic data that could mean a couple of different things. But to start it on a high-level I would actually go back to one of the earlier slides when I mentioned which survey to start with and I would give a try for a few of these different high-level surveys.

I would run a search particularly under the American Community Survey as an example to get some of that demographic information under the data profiles. That will also have some information that you may consider economic, so a few economic data like income, health insurance status,

industry, occupation. And then if by economic you mean more of business you may also want to take a look at the Economic Census Data and try the survey shown here.

That data set allows you to get information on things like number of employees, payroll for different industry and NAICS codes.

Deb Rivera: Thank you Tyson. You can go ahead.

Tyson Weister: Yes so working off of the - of course with demographic data you may also want kind of these groups that we've pointed out. And some of you may be working with some of these checkboxes already regarding the in-combination rates groups.

One of the questions that we've been getting a lot lately for folks that are using these is, "Why is the in combination checkbox not providing data for my detailed population group?"

And you can see as an example here for 041 Japanese alone or in combination. If you were to mark that checkbox on the site today you'd get data for the total population which is just the current defect that we're working to resolve and push out.

The good news is that there is a workaround. So right now if you want that data you can check the higher level box on the left for collections of population groups, in this case all available detailed Asian races. Of course that's going to give you data for more population groups than you want or need. But when you go to your table results and you can see at the bottom here, I scrolled pretty far to the right. But I was able to get to the section of

this table that represents the population group I actually want, Japanese alone or in combination.

Another common question, "Why are my geographies and downloads not in order?" We are by and large fixed this issue for the 2019 ACS data release and going forward but for previous years you may notice some things that aren't as you would expect.

In the first example on the left you can see I pulled up a particular table for all states in the US. The very first state instead of being Alabama it's showing Colorado and then the second state jumps all the way to Indiana. Not what you would expect, but even though the geographies in this case aren't sorted alphabetically or by the geography ZIP code, do know that it is in the table. You just have to scroll in order to get to that information and you may need to sort it manually if you'd like it in alphabetical order.

This can also manifest itself in the downloaded data not only in terms of alphabetization of the geographies but the Column C is the column that provides the first data in your download. Now you would probably expect Column C to provide data for the total civilian noninstitutionalized population as it does in the table. But you can see in this particular download it's showing data for the total number of females age 19 to 64 years with public health insurance coverage. It happens to be the 17th estimate from the table.

Do know that the previous data from the earlier lines of the table are in this download. You just have to scroll to the right to get to it or you can sort the information manually.

Another section of common questions we get, understanding error messages and overcoming performance issues. What is the recommended browser? We

do recommend using Google Chrome. It's going to give you the best speed and performance with the fewest numbers of bugs and defects. So if you're not using Google Chrome already for data.census.gov please do so.

"Why am I getting no results found error message?" So on the left you see a message, no results found. We couldn't find any results that matched your search. The way that you resolve this is by removing filters and checking for typos. So I'm going to walk through just a couple of scenarios that all result in this message.

In scenario one we can see a typo, particularly if you're doing a code or table ID. In this example you can see I typed in DPO2. And the table ID is actually DP02. So do check for typos and correct that in order to get results.

Another situation if you selected too many filters. Here I've selected filters for health, employment, housing as well as a filter that provides information on products from businesses. And there isn't a single table on our site that covers all of these topics in one table. Again we're searching for premade tables and it's looking for tables that are tagged with a particular topic.

Generally when you're navigating through the site what you're going to see is that the topics will be grayed out. So if you've already made some selections and you go to select something that's not compatible, most often the site's not going to let you do that. But there is always exceptions to the rules and when that happened you'll get the no results found error message which is an indication that you maybe need to broaden your search and remove some of those filters.

And a final scenario is something in your single search bar is not compatible with the filters you selected. Here I typed in DP02. So I have the correct table

ID but my geographies selection is for all blocks in Los Angeles County. And the American Community Survey Data from this table only goes down to the census tract level.

Other error messages, "Why am I getting data not available?" The way you resolved it is to get a higher level geography table or NAICS code. So when you get this generally the data are suppressed.

So one example generally speaking you can get data from Economics Surveys and Programs at the economic place level like the city of Chattanooga that you see in my selection. And you can also get data for four-digit NAICS codes as an example 3341 computer and peripheral equipment manufacturing.

However, for this specific a selection Chattanooga and 3341 it results in a data not available error message which tells me there are either zero computer and a peripheral equipment manufacturing businesses in Chattanooga or that the number is so small that we had to suppress that particular data value in order to protect the confidentiality of our respondents.

Another way that you may see data suppression is through blank columns. So here I've pulled up a table for all counties in Texas specifically limited to just the population 60 years and over and it provides very detailed characteristics. Because of ACS data suppression rules this particular table is not available for this geography, Anderson County, Texas.

You can learn more about data suppression from the American Community Survey as well as geographic restrictions by table visiting the links at the bottom.

Now moving on to selecting geographies we can certainly have an entire Webinar on questions related to this topic. We picked some of the most basic ones. And as a note we do have a recorded Webinar on accessing data for complex geographies if your question isn't answered or you don't get a chance to ask it today.

On a high level one of the most common questions we get, "Why does my table not show all of my selected geographies or why am I unable to select my geography?" Both of these options could be due to being clicked into the ACS one year estimates.

When you're in the full customized table view and clicked into ACS one year, those data are only available for selected geographies with 65,000 people or more. When you click the product drop-down and change the ACS five-year estimates by and large you will see the data for all of your selected geographies or you will be able to actually pick the filter that you were trying to pick in the Geo button at the top of the table. So give that a try first.

Another question for geography, "Why am I unable to find my geography using single search?" Here we have an example where we've typed in Strafford, NH, the abbreviation for New Hampshire. And the single search bar has a large task of finding out what this means.

In cases where there could be multiple meanings, often you'll get what you expect but there will be occasions where it's not pulling it out as you might think. In this example we can see it's found results for New Hampshire and for Strafford City, Missouri.

We would expect probably that it would give data for Strafford Town New Hampshire or Strafford County, New Hampshire. You can do some tweaking

with your wording in the single search bar but if that's not giving you the expected results, we do recommend the advanced search. It's the most precise way to select your geography.

And with that we wanted to take a moment to actually look at this specific search in the advanced search, how do I select data for my city or town? You come to us looking for data for your city or town and we classify it as a place or a county subdivision. So be on the lookout for those two geography types in the advanced search.

By and large for most states you will click on Geography Filter on the left and then you'll choose place and then follow the prompts. In this case we have a simple example clicking the state for Georgia and then choosing the city Atlanta, Georgia.

Or if you select states primarily in the Northeast and the Midwest those geographies or towns, townships and boroughs are legally defined as county subdivisions. So if you're not finding your results under place or you're not getting what you expect go ahead and click on Geography, choose County Subdivision and then you will follow the prompts here. In this screenshot I am sure the prompts followed through the selection for Strafford Town within Strafford County, New Hampshire.

Another common geography question, "How do I access data for ZIP Codes for information on people and housing through the Decennial Census in the American Community Survey?", we provide data for generalized representations of ZIP codes called ZIP Code tabulation areas.

So if you're looking for that type of data use the ZCTA or ZIP Code Tabulation Area level geography.

If you're looking for data for businesses through our Economics Surveys and Programs that data is provided for true ZIP Codes and you'll see that labeled as five-digit ZIP Code in the Geography drop-down menu.

Once you know to use ZCTA's if you're looking for information on people or housing, a couple different ways depending on the survey or program that you need the data for. The 2019 America Community Survey you'll select Geography in ZIP Code Tabulation Area.

Pretty straightforward when you know a specific ZIP Code area that you want. But if you want the data in bulk for the ACS you'll see the checkbox at the top that allows you to select all ZCTAs in the US. And you can even drill down into an individual state and get all of the ZCTAs within a particular state.

The way that you'll access this through the Decennial Census is a little bit different. So you'll use the geography and you'll turn on the Show Summary levels toggle at the top of the second panel. And then what you're looking for is Summary Level 871. This is a summary level that we have data through the Decennial Census only. It'll prompt you for your state and then you can go ahead and select the checkbox that allows you to get all ZCTAs in a state.

And if you're looking for historical American Community Survey data that functionality is available through other means in terms of getting that data for all ZCTAs in bulk. And we've outlined that process in the FAQ listed here. If you're looking for Decennial Census data for all ZCTAs in the US we also have a FAQ that walks through that process and explains in a little bit more detail.

"How do I select all census tracts in the US?" We don't have a single checkbox that allows you to choose that, but you can choose the individual state checkboxes, for instance, all census tracts in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona. If you click on the link here in the middle of the slide or at the bottom of the FAQ that takes you to the geography selection already completed for you where we selected all census tracts in all 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico to give you the equivalent geography for all census tracts in the US. You'll just visit the link and you can add your search criteria topic or table ID and proceed with your search.

"How do I select all block groups in my state?" We do have checkboxes, things like all block groups within Washington. We have not yet done the technical back end work to enable these for America Community Survey data tables. So what this means is if you use this for ACS data tables it will result in a download failed error message.

The good news is that you can use the lower level collections as a workaround. As an example, you can choose all block groups in each of Washington's 39 counties in order to get the equivalent data.

And even better yet you don't have to worry about clicking all of these boxes for all of the counties in your state. We've already done that. Just visit the link for this FAQ and you'll be able to click on the link with all block groups for your state with this workaround selection already in place for you.

"What about other geography selection options you'd like to see?". Tell us what you'd like to see. We continue to add more collection based on your feedback.

For instance, I was helping a user who wanted all census tracts in the city. Their city is Palo Alto. We don't have a single checkbox on this site, but you can reference these geography resources shown on the slide here in order to find out what those census tracts would be, or you're able to really pick and choose whatever kind of collection of geography within another geography you want. Once you have that information through the reference material you will have the list of geographies that you can select individually on the site in order to get the data that you need.

And how can I find the geographies for an address? We are in the very early stages of building this functionality directly on our site. The good news is that we have the Census Geocoder as a resource that you can use.

So what this means is you can visit the Census Geocoder. Here on the left I'm showing a screenshot where I typed in the address for the regional office in California and then you click Find. If I wanted to know what census tract this particular address falls in, I would just navigate to the Census tract section of the results and then read the name. So I can see that this address falls in census tract 3105.01.

And then with that information I would know when I go to data.census.gov how to select that particular geography. Once you make that geography selection, you can add additional search criteria in order to see the population, income, health insurance, et cetera, statistics for this neighborhood.

And lastly questions about downloading and printing tables. One question, why is my download a JSON file? We've seen an uptick of these questions coming in and working towards resolving the underlying issue.

Essentially when you're using browsers like Firefox and Safari in some cases when you go to download a table you'll notice that the results it's showing as JSON Java script object notation file format. It should be a Zip file format with CSV files inside. And the easiest workaround is to make sure to download your tables with the preferred browser using Google Chrome.

"Why does my download not look like the table?" A download is what you want to use to get machine readable output. It's really best if you want to map, sort or manipulate the data that you're getting from the site. But there are a total of three output option buttons that you'll see at the top of the table. There's Export, Download and Print.

If you're looking for output that looks like the table we would recommend you actually export that data instead. So you'll click the Export button, you'll proceed to Export to Excel. And then the end result is you're going to get this nice output that looks very similar to what you're seeing on screen. It has all the qualifying information, the table title, table ID, survey program, the year, a link to get back to the exact table on our site, and then of course all of the data here laid out nicely formatted with your geographies in the columns and then your data variables laid out here with all the indentation you see on the table.

With that in mind there are a variety of options. Some folks want to know why customization may not be reflected in the downloaded file? We do have the ability on the site for customizations you make on the screen to carry over into the output in some cases, so customizations like turning on and off the margin of error, hiding columns. Those carryover if you copy paste the data or export it.

However any customizations you make on screen, they don't currently carry over when you go through the download process. So if you want those

customizations we would recommend using the export file format or downloading the file and making those customizations after the fact once you've downloaded the file.

"How can I print my table?" We've made it a lot easier by adding a Print button at the top of the table. Once you press that Print button it will give you a note saying that only the first table, the first page from the data table will print.

So once you go ahead and say you want to print anyway know that this is best for small tables generally with the single geography. But there are a few steps that you can take in order to fit more information on that one page that will print out for you with a data table. You can prior to printing it, adjust the width of the columns to make them smaller. You can also hide the columns that you don't need.

And then the last thing you can do is use the print settings and adjust the print scale. For instance here, we're showing some adjusted column widths and a print scale of 55%.

And "How can I download a PDF?" As you're going through the download process you will notice a button that is always grayed out that says PDF. The reason it's grayed out is we have not done the technical back end work in order to enable this functionality. If you're looking for PDF output, the best thing that's going to give you something to what looks like the table is to export it.

Again this has all the fully qualifying information as well including a link to get back to the original table. We've done a lot of improvements in order to

make this more meaningful output file format and we're continuing to do some updates moving forward.

"Where can I learn more? We have an educational resources page devoted specifically to this with video tutorials if you want to look at short videos, full-length recorded Webinars with live demonstrations showing how to use the site and special topics, release notes, news and updates as well as flyers with step-by-step PDF guidance.

And you are also more than welcome to email us whether you have a specific data question or suggestions on how we can make data.census.gov work better for you. Please email your comments to us at cedsci.feedback@census.gov.

And at this time we'll go ahead and transition over to some of the questions that were collected during chat. And if you don't get a chance to ask your question or don't get an answer you can also pose your questions to the contact information on this screen depending whether you're a member of the media or the general public.

Deb Rivera: Great thank you so much Tyson. That was all really great information. I'm going to go ahead and start reading off some questions that we received through chat.

The first question comes from (Doddington). And the question is I - they're referring to one of our Data Gems tutorials. "From your Data Gems tutorials you show how to customize the table but once you download the file the customization returns to the original filter table. Can you talk a little bit more about that?"

Tyson Weister: Yes that's a great question. So the customizations you make on screen if you do certain actions on the site like downloading the table or sometimes adding, removing geographies or resizing the screen, certain actions you make can reset the table to a default view which won't have your customization saved. So that would be actually a good example of feedback that we like to hear emailed to us through cedsci.feedback@census.gov on how we can make the site work better for you. So there's nothing that you're missing or doing wrong but it's great feedback for us moving forward.

Deb Rivera: Okay thank you. The next question comes from (Susan). And she wants to know, "What is the best document for integrating census data with a town's GIS?"

Tyson Weister: I would need a little bit more further clarification for that question. What I can say from data.census.gov is that we have the download data. And one other resource I want to point out related to this question is something on ask.census.gov that we didn't pull out as a frequently ask question to highlight during this Webinar, that is a question that we do get somewhat regularly particularly from GIS professionals that I wanted to just point you towards.

So when you download the file from data.census.gov you will have the statistics and then you're also going to have the GEOID. And the GEOID is something that you're going to need to match up with the GEOID from the Shapefiles that gave you the boundaries if you wanted to make your own maps. Those GEOIDs are going to need a little bit of manipulation and parsing in order to make that work.

So you'll want to make sure to check out this FAQ, [how can I match the GEOID from data.census.gov with the GEOID from TIGER/Line Shapefiles](#). Again what you're going to be getting through data.census.gov is the statistics

for population people, economy, housing and then any other resources like TIGER/Line Shapefile. Those would all need to be downloaded separately through the Geography Web page on census.gov. We haven't yet integrated those resources into data.census.gov so I would recommend kind of checking out the TIGER/Line information as well as the statistics from our site.

Deb Rivera: Great. And there's kind of related to what you were just talking about the resources, here's another question from (Doddington). And the question is, "Where can a new user learn more information about the numbers shown in a particular table, for example poverty to income ratio? How do I find out how that is calculated or what the estimation represents?"

Tyson Weister: And that's a great question and I'm actually going to approach this from looking at a table itself. So I'm just going to pull up a quick table that you all should be able to see on screen and show when you click customized table in the upper right I showed a few screens shots that had this customized table ribbon. And in the Notes section you'll want to click on Notes.

This is the best way to get to the technical documentation for individual surveys and programs. And in this first link you can see the technical documentation is the very first link and quite a bit of information that you could read through.

Once you click that link what you want to choose is this very second document in this case that says Subject Definitions. And then you could kind of scroll through the document. You can press Control F and search for something in particular or you could, you know, look at poverty or income and read more in order to get to what you're looking for. I'm not going to scroll through to find the exact answer to your question but this is the document I would refer you to.

Also generally speaking besides looking at the Notes section of a particular table on data.census.gov you can also check out the Census Bureau glossary as a good resource for subject definitions.

Deb Rivera: Okay thank you. The next question comes from (Scotty). And the question is, "Is there a recording or a tutorial that shows how to get started with using the US Census data query system, like an introduction 101 level?"

Tyson Weister: Absolutely. So we have a variety of educational resources. When you go to data.census.gov you can click the Help button right by the Advanced Search. And these are going to take you to resources specifically related to data.census.gov as well as the application programming interface.

I'm not sure exactly which one you were referencing. I think it was data.census.gov but under guidance for data users, you'll click that. And then from here you can go to the Webinar section and that has the recorded Webinars.

If you're looking on how to use data.census.gov you'll want to refer to this, one Data.census.gov Today, a Comprehensive Overview. That's the best starting point on how to use and then right next to it is the best Webinar on how to use the API.

Deb Rivera: Yes and I think the question was census data query system so I'm not sure if that was particularly related to the API but you are pointing to the Webinar that we just had for Demystifying the Census API, just also a great resource.

Okay our next question comes from (Patricia) and the question is, "If we wanted the most recent ethnicity numbers for a select sector of a city at

present what survey would be the best to use considering that the 2020 decennial numbers are not available yet?"

Tyson Weister: Great. That's a great question. If you're looking for the - a sector of the city I'm assuming that means you don't want the full city but you want different parts. So I'm not exactly sure which geography you're referring to. But based on that information I would definitely recommend the America Community Survey would have the geography that you're wanting and needing whether that's looking at census tracts in your city or some other way of slicing and dicing the city.

There are the most fresh up-to-date portraits of America's people and housing in-between the decennial census for those geographies. So I would recommend the ACS. The most recent is the 2019 America Community Survey. And if you wanted data for the full city you could use other sources but if you wanted smaller geographies definitely use the ACS.

Deb Rivera: Excellent, thank you. All right the next question comes from (Xaviera). "Is an updated EEO tabulation table available for download, and if not when will it be available for 2010 and after?"

Tyson Weister: That's a great question. I - we kind of covered it at a high level on the slide, but I'm actually going to go to the FAQ that we have on it since I have that pulled up here. The 2010 EEO, so that was based on the 2006 through 2010 American Community Survey, that is not on our site but I would recommend the FTP site.

I will say the FTP site is - it's a little bit of a learning curve in order to access the information. Generally speaking for America Community Survey FTP site products, you have to download the data in one file, the geography in another

file and then merge them together in order to actually make sense of what you're looking at just because it's too much information to all be in one place. But I would recommend that as a starting point as well as the EEO table tool.

This is a tool that's in beta but it's pretty easy to use. With just a couple of clicks you can get some of the most commonly requested information. So check out those two resources.

In terms of future releases, we don't have this out listed here. I'm not sure off the top of my head but I believe in the next couple of years the update to this is expected. And we are working towards adding that on data.census.gov but more to come on that. And if you need specifics, feel free to email us and we can dig into it further for you.

Deb Rivera: Okay thank you. And this question came up quite often in various ways. So I'll say this question specifically came from (Jean) and it is, "Can I get data for characteristics by race and ethnicity for example poverty by Black, non-Hispanics and Asian non-Hispanics?"

Tyson Weister: Yes. We showed on a high level in one of the slides but I think it might be helpful to actually see in the advanced search on the live site. So I'm just going to take one moment to look at that in particular.

So we showed selecting your race and ethnic group. This is a detailed group so we'll click on Topics, Race and Ethnicity. And remember anytime you want characteristics of detailed groups you're going to want something that has a code in it.

Now Black, non-Hispanics you may not know offhand which one to check but once you go through the panel you'll look at non-Hispanic or Latino. And then

you can look at data for overall the population that's not Hispanic or Latino or you can drill into details not Hispanic or Latino. And then from here you'll start to see some of the groups that you're looking for.

For instance you may be interested in Population Group 453 Black or African American alone not Hispanic or Latino. Once you've selected this you can go ahead and choose your other topics as normal, for instance under income and poverty, marking until you've marked the Poverty checkbox. And then you just run the search and it pulls up the available tables.

Depending on your geography selection you may get data from 2019 ACS one year or you may go back to a more comprehensive data set that's released once every five years. So as an example, through that data set we can see in the US the total Black or African-American alone, non-Hispanic or Latino population and then we can start to see some of the data for folks who have incomes below the poverty level.

Deb Rivera: Okay thank you. All right and this question comes from (Wes). The question is, "Is GEOID included in downloaded tables?"

Tyson Weister: Yes. It is included and it does have the additional information that was in the FAQ that we pointed at first. So is under How to Use the Site and then How Can I Match the GEOID, we'll just take a quick look at it here.

So generally speaking what you're going to get through the TIGER/Line Shapefiles is anything that appears after US. So the GEOID from data.census.gov download is typically in the very first column of your table labeled GEOID. And it's going to be a little bit longer. These characters give information about the summary level, geographic variant and the geographic

component. So it is meaningful information but if you want to take that match you don't need that and you can parse it out following the steps in this FAQ.

Deb Rivera: Okay. And here is another question that came up quite frequently. And honestly I think you were all expecting it. This question comes from (Dave). "When will 2020 census data be available?"

Tyson Weister: That's a great question. Our area is responsible for disseminating the data. We aren't involved in 2020 census data collection or the data products or the data release determination date. We would recommend that you pose your question to pio@census.gov. At this time I don't have any details on when that data will be released.

Deb Rivera: Great, okay. So this question comes from (Patricia). "Is it possible to get a crosswalk between ZCTA and tract? I usually use the ACS data profile?"

Tyson Weister: Yes. So in terms of if you want to know which census tracts are in a particular ZIP Code tabulation area -- I'm assuming that's what you mean by this question -- that would be an example of where you would want to use either the relationship files. I don't believe the relationship files have that particular combination of relationships but MABLE Geocorr is more flexible and would be a tool that you could use in order to find that.

So you would choose -- you would visit the link here on this slide and then you would choose whatever state it was that you wanted for your analysis. And then on the left you would choose where it says Zip/ZCTA. You would just click that. And then on the right you would click Census Tracts.

You kind of scroll down and run the search and what it's going to do is spit out a file for every single ZCTA in your state. And if that ZCTA has more

than one Census Tract it's going to have a separate line in that file identifying each and every census tract that is either fully within that ZIP Code tabulation area or partially within that ZIP Code tabulation area. That would be the best recommendation to get that crosswalk.

Deb Rivera: All right and this next question comes from (Daniel) and it's, "Thank you for this presentation. Can you make any general comments on comparing what data products are available via the API, the census API and via data.census.gov?"

Tyson Weister: Another great question. What I can say is that for anything to be on data.census.gov it has to be in the API as well. So the entire set of data that you see on data.census.gov is on the API.

The API can have additional data sets as well, particularly more historical information. There's also several surveys and programs that are on the API that we haven't put in data.census.gov just yet.

When you go to census.gov/developers the very first link in the paragraph to the discovery tool and then I'm just going to open up the very first link, the HTML version of the discovery tool. If you want to just view the information you can scroll and see all of the information and data sets that are available in the API. There's 540 different ones.

This does account for kind of different data sets in terms of different types of tables in some cases as well as individual vintages counting as an entire data set for many surveys and programs. But this is the comprehensive list as to what is publicly available through the API if you want us to make that comparison.

Deb Rivera: Okay thank you for that. And we're approaching here the top of the hour so I'm going to ask two more questions and Tyson I know you have a couple more slides with resources that you want to go through. So this next question comes from (Doddington) and it says, "Do you get the GEOID with the link to TIGER files?"

Tyson Weister: No. The TIGER files are currently separate from the data.census.gov download. So you would need to go to the Resource page.

You can pull up the FAQ for data.census.gov and you'll find that one of the FAQs talk on how to download Shapefiles or you might just be able to Google TIGER/Line Shapefiles and get there a little bit more quickly. But it's two separate processes, download the data or statistics and GEOID on our site and the download the Shapefiles and connect those two based on GEOID separately.

Deb Rivera: All right. And our final question comes from (Bruce) and he wants to know, "Where can we find the plan or a schedule for adding additional data sets to data that census.gov?"

Tyson Weister: Yes so on – a couple places you can look when you go to the Help button on data.census.gov Landing page, first I want to point out News and Updates. So this doesn't look forward so much as it does document the present.

On the day of the release you can even see for today we've posted a couple of historical data sets that we've added to data that census.gov for the first time. And you can kind of scroll through to see recent releases as well.

In terms of looking forward one way that you can think about that is looking in terms of what information that we still plan to migrate over to the site.

Generally speaking though at this point in time that's going to be a little bit more of the historical data. And when you click under Guidance for Data Users and the transition from AFF or American FactFinder you'll see more details about data sets that we haven't yet migrated but we plan to migrate and also information on where you can find the data in the meantime.

Deb Rivera: Excellent. All right well thank you so much Tyson for addressing all of those questions. And thank you to everyone for sending the questions. We received a lot of them that obviously for time constraints we were not able to address but please remember that you can always send questions to our team to our inbox at cedsci.feedback@census.gov. So thank you Tyson. I'll turn it back over to you so you can do the wrap up.

Tyson Weister: Oh sure. I was just going to let you all know that we have some additional resources. One is micro data access on data.census.gov/mdat. This is a special tool on data.census.gov where you can create custom tables in comparison to what we showed today which were question and answers related to the primary data.census.gov where you would access information on pre-made tables.

If you'd like to learn on how to create a custom table you can visit the link to learn more. And we also provide educational materials. Some questions today touched on the API, Application Programming Interface.

This is how data.census.gov is powered. It pulls information from the API in real-time in order to feed it to you in a nice user display that you can see on your screen without having to make those complicated API calls. If you'd like to make those API calls yourself to access the data or create your own Web application, our API is public and we have resources on how to learn more through the API.

Also wanted to point out what we focused on today were data.census.gov and training materials through the centralized data dissemination from the Census Bureau. We also have this posted in partnership with our folks from the Data Dissemination Team on census.gov/academy. This is the centralized training bureau or training hub for the census where you can get training resources across a variety of topics not necessarily tailored on any one individual tool, survey or program. So we recommend checking that out to learn more about census data and how you can learn.

And we would of course invite you to participate in our Webinar evaluation. We always welcome feedback on how we can make these more useful to you. So please do take some time to fill that out. And once again we'd like to thank you all for joining and we hope to continue to hear questions from you and see you at a future Webinar.

Coordinator: All participants this concludes today's conference. You may disconnect at this time. Thank you. Speakers standby.

END