DATA GEMS: How to Select Your Area to Access Data Using data.census.gov
Transcript

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Hi, my name is Tyson. When working with census data, geography is one of the most important but sometimes challenging parts of every data search. In this data gem, I'll show you a few simple ways to access your area using data.census.gov.
From the main page of data.census.gov, there are a few ways you can go about selecting your area.

One of my favorite ways to get started is to try the single search bar. Here I'll walk through how to access data for Chicago, Illinois. Just type that into the search bar. Then press enter or click where is says search. And now you can see we get results for our geography. It's that simple.

Another way you can go about selecting your geography is to go through the map view. Once you've run a search. If you haven't specified a geography, the default will be to give you results for the United States. From the All results page, clicking over to map in the upper left. You can also select your area visually through the map on data.census.gov. Since we don't have a geography selected, in the upper right side of the screen where is says "Geographies" we can click and change the layer to whatever type of geographic area we're interested in getting data for.

Working with the same example, we'll select "Place" from the dropdown menu. And then scroll over in the map. After we've made that selection for place, it zooms us in. Scrolling over to Illinois, into the Chicago area. As we zoom in we'll see the label for Chicago. And as we zoom more and more, we see more labels start to populate for smaller areas. Once we get far into our zoom, we can also start to see streets on our map view.

To select Chicago, just do a simple left click and click "Select." And we see it's starting to create a map for us. It's selected that geography. Once you've made this selection on the map, clicking back on Tables in the upper left, we can see that geography selection carries over seamlessly across the site for you to get data for Chicago.

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Now I'm going to click the U.S. Census Bureau logo in the upper left and show you the final way to pick your geography, by clicking the Advanced Search from the landing page.

With the advanced search, as you would guess, under "browse filters" click where it says geography. Then you can scroll to the area that you're interested in.
So here we click "Place" just as we had selected that on the map dropdown. And it begins to load different options for us. Scrolling down till we get to Illinois. Once we make that click we see we get a list of all of the places in Illinois. One of the things I like to do is click the spyglass and start typing Chicago. This will narrow our list of results to geographies that contain "Chicago."

Clicking the box on the left for "Chicago, Illinois" we see it's added it so our selected filters in the lower left. And from here we just click search to continue to the different tables available for this geography.

I hope these tips make it easier for you to access data on data.census.gov for more videos like this please visit census.gov/academy and subscribe. Thank you!