

# How to Use American Community Survey (ACS) Geodatabase Files and ArcMap

May 18, 2016

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# Outline

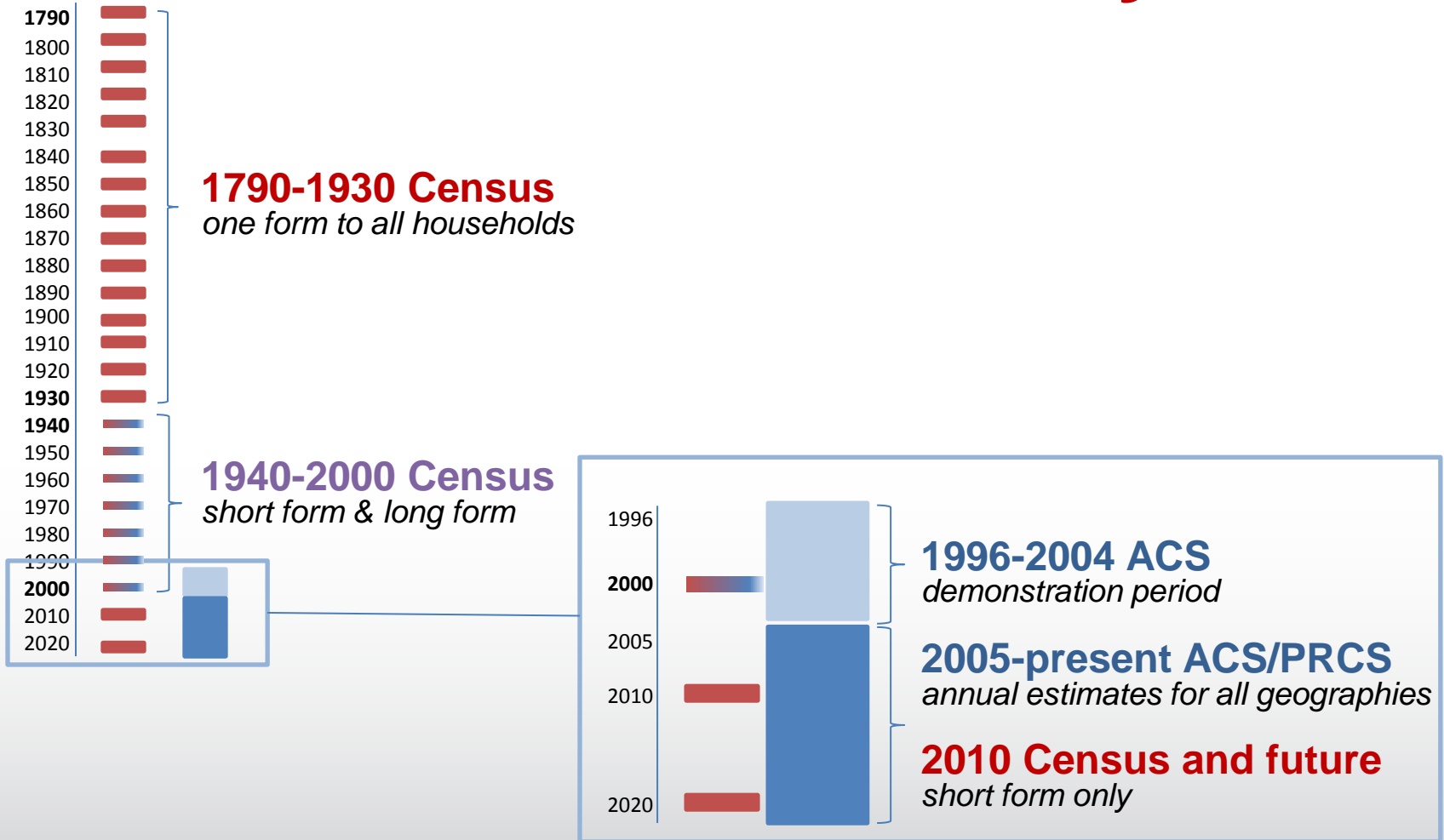
- **American Community Survey (ACS) basics**
- Location of Census Geodatabases
- Downloading Geodatabase
- Joining feature class to tables
- Using Metadata tables to identify full descriptions
- Stay in touch
- Questions

# ACS Basics

- Ongoing monthly survey sent to 3.5 million addresses per year to produce detailed population and housing estimates each year
  - Visit 20,000 Group Quarter facilities and sample approximately 194,000 residents each year
- Designed to produce *critical information on small areas and small population groups* previously collected on the decennial long form
- Covers 35+ topics and supports over 300 known Federal Government uses
- Data released twice annually
  - 1-year estimates (12 months of data)
  - 5-year estimates (60 months of data)

The image displays three overlapping representations of the American Community Survey (ACS) forms. The topmost form is a paper questionnaire titled 'Housing' with various questions about housing characteristics. Below it is a computer screen showing the online survey interface, which includes a welcome message, a barcode, and a 'Please Log In' section with a 'User ID' field and a 'Log In' button. The bottommost form is another paper questionnaire, similar to the top one, but with a large barcode on the left side.

# Census / ACS History



# How is the ACS Different from a Census?

	ACS	2010 Census
<i>purpose</i>	Sample estimates	Official counts
<i>produces</i>	Population characteristics	Population totals
<i>new data every</i>	Year	10 years
<i>data reflect</i>	Period of time	Point in time


# ACS Content

## Social



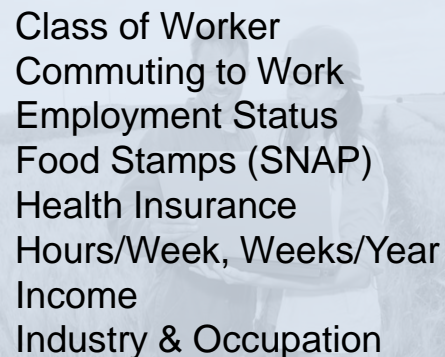
Ancestry  
Citizenship Status  
Disability Status  
Educational Attainment  
Fertility  
Grandparents  
Language Spoken at Home  
Marital Status  
Migration  
Place of Birth  
School Enrollment  
Veteran Status  
Year of Entry

## Demographic




Age  
Hispanic Origin  
Race  
Relationship  
Sex

## Economic



Class of Worker  
Commuting to Work  
Employment Status  
Food Stamps (SNAP)  
Health Insurance  
Hours/Week, Weeks/Year  
Income  
Industry & Occupation

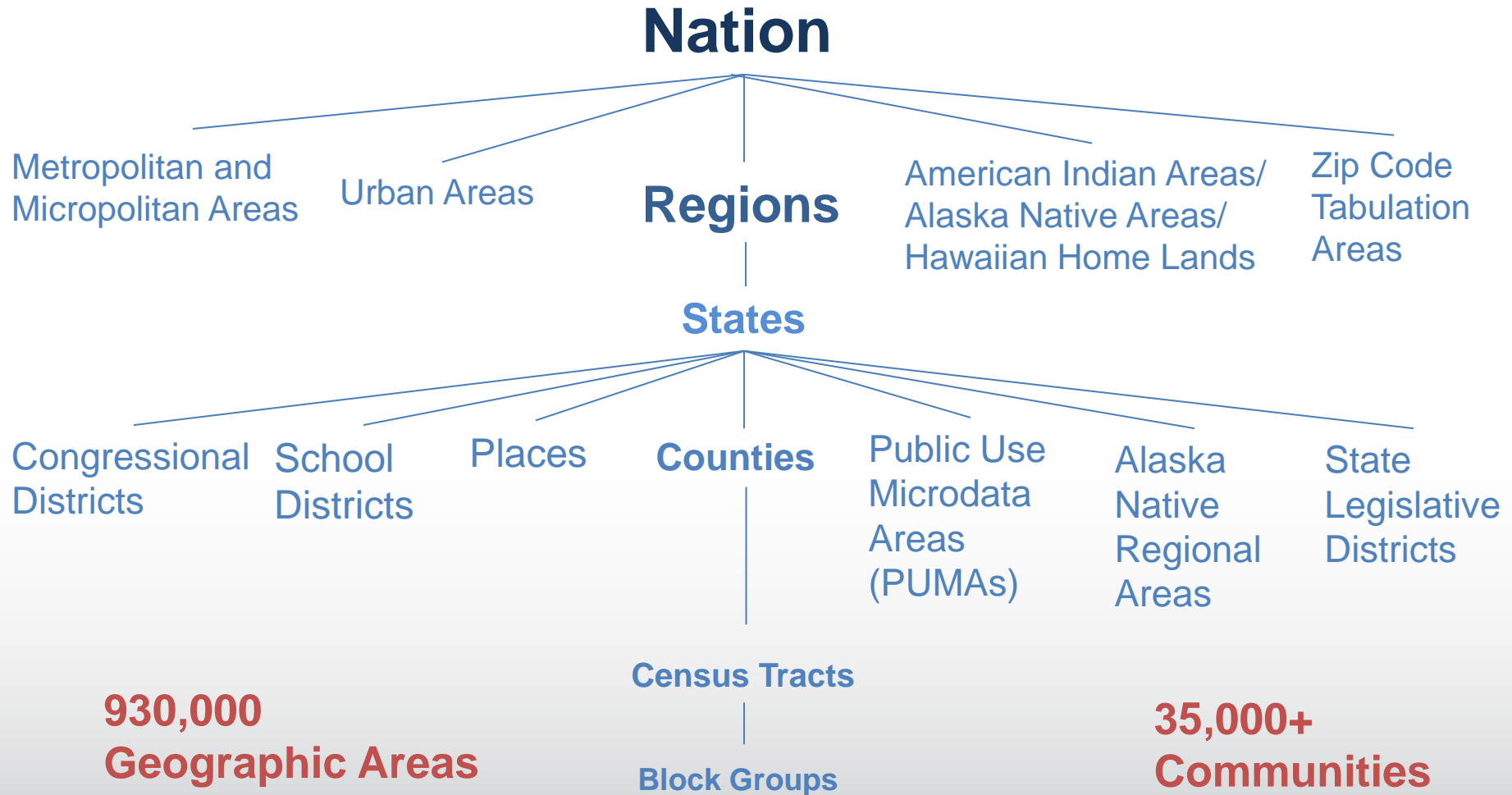
## Housing



Computer & Internet Use  
Costs (Mortgage, Taxes, Insurance)  
Heating Fuel  
Home Value  
Occupancy Status  
Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities  
Structure Type  
Tenure (Own/Rent)  
Utilities  
Vehicles  
Year Built/ Year Moved In

**35+ Topics** ➡ **1000+ Tables** ➡ **11 Billion Estimates**

# Selected Census Geographic Concepts



# Availability of ACS Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	1-Year Estimates	5-Year Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X
Less than 65,000		X
Release Date	September 2016	December 2016



# Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- **Location of Census Geodatabases**
- Downloading Geodatabase
- Joining feature class to tables
- Using Metadata tables to identify full descriptions
- Stay in touch
- Questions

# Background Information

- Geodatabases bring together geography from the 2014 TIGER/Line Shapefiles and data from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.
- The public and Census partners wanted an easier way to join ACS data to geographic boundaries
- 2010-2014 Geodatabases were created using ArcGIS 10.3
- The Census Bureau doesn't provide the ArcGIS software

# Census.gov

The screenshot shows the Census.gov homepage. The 'Geography' link in the top navigation bar is circled in red. Below it, in the main content area, the 'Maps & Data' button is also circled in red. The page features a '2016 Census Test' section with a map of Harris County, Texas. At the bottom, there are three widgets: 'Population Clock' showing U.S. and World population, 'QUICKFACTS' with a 'Did You Know' fact about Cook County, Illinois, and 'U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators' showing various economic data points.

U.S. Department of Commerce | Blogs | Index A-Z | Glossary | FAQ

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Geography Main | About | Education | GSS Initiative  
Interactive Maps | **Maps & Data** | Metropolitan & Micropolitan  
Reference | Research

## 2016 Census Test

Harris County

**2016 Census Test**

The 2016 Census Test is being conducted in portions of Harris County, Texas, and Los Angeles County, Calif., and will allow the Census Bureau to study a variety of new methods and advanced technologies that are under consideration for the 2020 Census.

Population Clock

U.S. Population: 323,478,861  
World Population: 7,322,308,310  
May 03, 2016 17:29 UTC (+4) [Learn More >>](#)

**QUICKFACTS**

**Did You Know**  
Population per square mile in Cook County, Illinois is 5,495.1  
Source: 2010 Census  
[Select a state to begin](#)

**U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators**

Indicator	Value	Change
Construction Spending	\$1,137.5 B	0.3% ↑
Rental Vacancy Rate	7.0%	-0.1%PTS ↓
Homeownership Rate	63.5%	↓

\* change not statistically significant  
\* significance not reported / applicable

# TIGER Products

You are here: [Census.gov](#) > [Geography](#) > [Maps & Data](#)

## Geography

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### Maps & Data

■ [Maps & Data Main Page](#)

#### Maps

- [Census Data Mapper](#)
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- [Maps Available for Purchase](#)

#### Data

- [TIGER Products](#)
- [Census Geocoder](#)
- [Partnership Shapefiles](#)
- [Relationship Files](#)
- [Gazetteer Files](#)
- [Block Assignment Files](#)
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- [LandView](#)

### Maps & Data

Find geographic data and products such as the TIGER/Line Shapefiles, KMLs, TIGERweb, cartographic boundary files, geographic relationship files, and reference and thematic maps.



#### Maps

##### [Census Data Mapper](#)

The Census Data Mapper is a web mapping application intended to provide users with a simple interface to view, save and print county-based demographic maps of the United States.

##### [Reference Maps](#)

Reference maps are designed to show the geographic locations of features and boundaries. These maps usually contain features, such as roads and rivers, and boundaries, such as county, place, census tracts, or many more. These maps do not contain demographic data and are used solely to show the location of and relationship between boundaries and features. For interactive reference maps see TIGERweb.

##### [Thematic Maps](#)

Thematic maps are designed to show demographic, economic, business, or socioeconomic data about or characteristics of an area. Thematic maps tell a story spatially. They show a theme, or special topic, for a geographic area. Thematic maps may use features from reference maps as their base and then display additional data to tell a story about that area.

#### Geographic Data

##### [TIGER Products](#)

Geospatial Files and Applications from our MAF/TIGER database. Tools for use in GIS software, Web Mapping Services (WMS) to use in your applications, and browsers to view geographic data.

##### [Census Geocoder](#)

The Census Geocoder allows users to look up the geography an address is located within for up to 1,000 addresses at a time.

##### [Partnership Shapefiles](#)

The Partnership Shapefiles are used in our partner programs to share data with and capture data from our partners.

##### [Relationship Files](#)

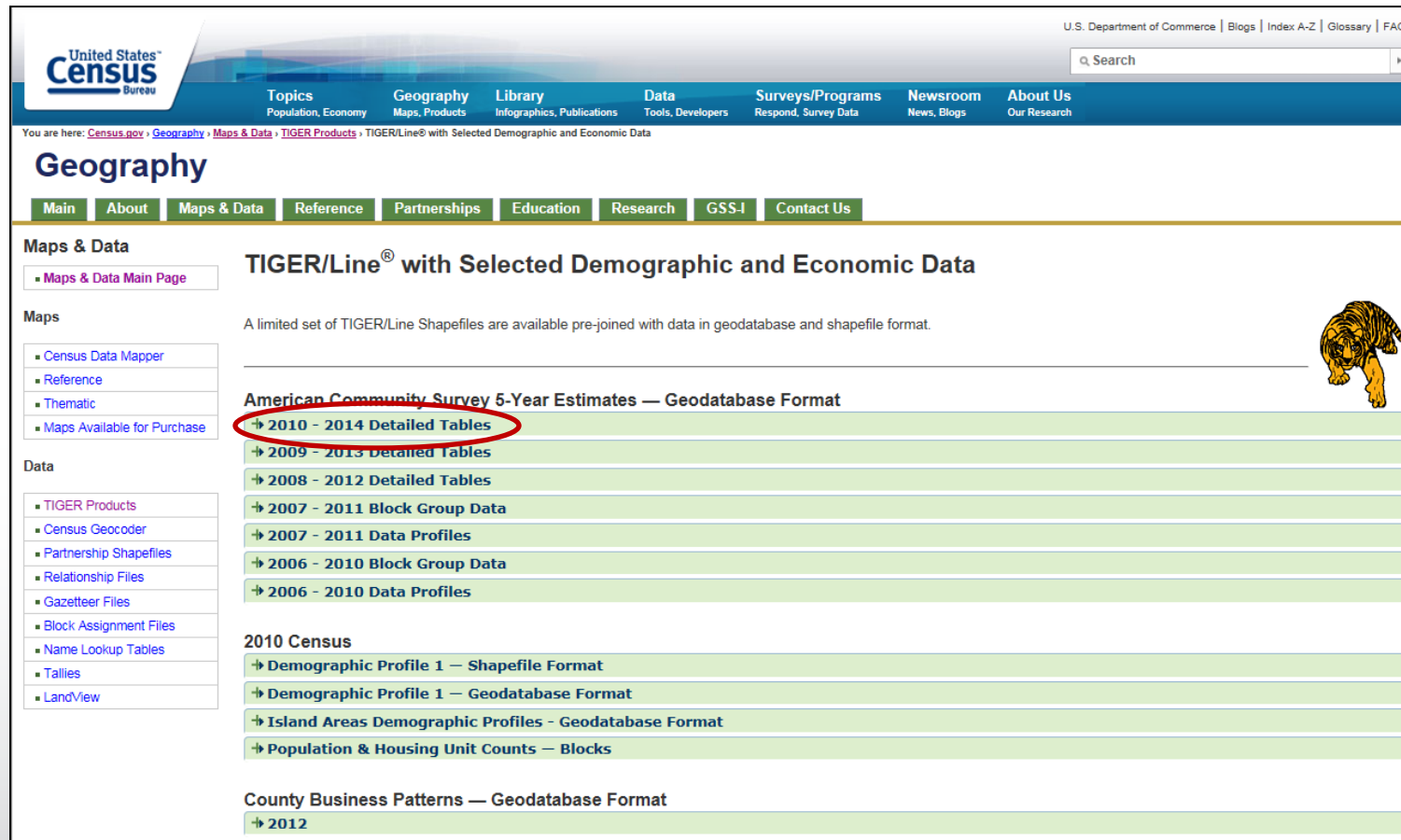
Relationship files help users compare different vintages of geography, such as Census 2000 blocks to 2010 Census blocks in text format.

# TIGER/Line with Selected Demographic and Economic Data

Which product should I use?

Product	Best For...	File Format	Type of Data	Level of Detail	Descriptive Attributes	Vintages Available
<u>TIGER/Line Shapefiles</u>	Most mapping projects--this is our <i>most comprehensive dataset</i> . Designed for use with GIS (geographic information systems).	Shapefiles (.shp) and database files (.dbf)	Boundaries, roads, address information, water features, and more	Full detail (not generalized)	Extensive	2006 - 2015, CD 113
<u>TIGER Geodatabases</u>	Useful for users needing national datasets or all major boundaries for by state. Designed for use in ArcGIS. Files are extremely large.	Geodatabase (.gdb)	Boundaries, roads, address information, water features, and more	Full detail (not generalized)	Limited	2013-2014
<u>TIGER/Line with Selected Demographic and Economic Data</u>	Data from selected attributes from the 2010 Census, 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates, 2007-2011 ACS 5-year estimates, 2008-2012 ACS 5-year estimates and County Business Patterns (CBP) for selected geographies. Designed for use with GIS.	Shapefiles (.shp) and Geodatabases	Boundaries, Population Counts, Housing Unit Counts, 2010 Census Demographic Profile 1 attributes, 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates data profiles, 2007-2011 ACS 5-year estimates data profiles, CBP data.	Full detail (not generalized)	Limited	2012 CBP, 2010, 2006-2010 ACS, 2007-2011 ACS, 2008-2012 ACS
<u>Cartographic Boundary Shapefiles</u>	Small scale (limited detail) mapping projects clipped to shoreline. Designed for thematic mapping using GIS.	Shapefiles (.shp)	Selected boundaries	Less detail (generalized)	Limited	2014, 2013, 2010, 2000, 1990
<u>KML - Cartographic Boundary Files</u>	Viewing data or creating maps using Google Earth, Google Maps, or other platforms that use KML.	KML (.kml)	Selected boundaries	Less detail (generalized)	Limited	2014, 2013
<u>TIGERweb</u>	Viewing spatial data online or streaming to your mapping application.	Interactive viewer, HTML data files, plus REST and WMS map services	Boundaries, roads, address information, water features, and more	Detailed	Extensive	2012, 2010, 2012 ACS and 2011 ACS

# 2010 – 2014 Detailed Tables



The screenshot shows the U.S. Census Bureau website. The top navigation bar includes links for Topics, Geography, Library, Data, Surveys/Programs, Newsroom, and About Us. The 'Geography' section is active, and the 'Maps & Data' sub-section is selected. The main content area is titled 'TIGER/Line® with Selected Demographic and Economic Data'. A list of data products is displayed, with '2010 - 2014 Detailed Tables' circled in red. Other products include '2009 - 2013 Detailed Tables', '2008 - 2012 Detailed Tables', '2007 - 2011 Block Group Data', '2007 - 2011 Data Profiles', '2006 - 2010 Block Group Data', '2006 - 2010 Data Profiles', '2010 Census Demographic Profile 1' (in both Shapefile and Geodatabase formats), 'Island Areas Demographic Profiles - Geodatabase Format', 'Population & Housing Unit Counts - Blocks', and 'County Business Patterns - Geodatabase Format' (2012).

United States Census Bureau

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Search

Topics: Population, Economy | Geography: Maps, Products | Library: Infographics, Publications | Data: Tools, Developers | Surveys/Programs: Respond, Survey Data | Newsroom: News, Blogs | About Us: Our Research

You are here: [Census.gov](#) > [Geography](#) > [Maps & Data](#) > [TIGER Products](#) > TIGER/Line® with Selected Demographic and Economic Data

## Geography

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### TIGER/Line® with Selected Demographic and Economic Data

A limited set of TIGER/Line Shapefiles are available pre-joined with data in geodatabase and shapefile format.

#### American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates — Geodatabase Format


- 2010 - 2014 Detailed Tables
- 2009 - 2013 Detailed Tables
- 2008 - 2012 Detailed Tables
- 2007 - 2011 Block Group Data
- 2007 - 2011 Data Profiles
- 2006 - 2010 Block Group Data
- 2006 - 2010 Data Profiles

#### 2010 Census

- Demographic Profile 1 — Shapefile Format
- Demographic Profile 1 — Geodatabase Format
- Island Areas Demographic Profiles - Geodatabase Format
- Population & Housing Unit Counts — Blocks

#### County Business Patterns — Geodatabase Format

- 2012



<http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-data.html>

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# Choose Census Geography of Your Choice

Maps & Data

■ [Maps & Data Main Page](#)

Maps

■ [Census Data Mapper](#)

■ [Reference](#)

■ [Thematic](#)

■ [Maps Available for Purchase](#)

Data

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## TIGER/Line® with Selected Demographic and Economic Data

A limited set of TIGER/Line Shapefiles are available pre-joined with data in geodatabase and shapefile format.

### American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates — Geodatabase Format

#### ← 2010 - 2014 Detailed Tables

These geodatabases bring together geography from the 2014 TIGER/Line Shapefiles and data from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.


#### Download the Geodatabases

- American Indian Areas
  - [American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Area](#)
  - [Alaska Native Regional Corporation](#)
  - [Tribal Block Group](#)
  - [Tribal Census Tract](#)
- Block Group - select a state:  

Select a State
- Census Tract - select a state:  


Select a State
- [Congressional District \(114th Congress\)](#)
- Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs)
  - [Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area](#)
  - [Metropolitan Division](#)
  - [Combined Statistical Area](#)
  - [New England City and Town Area](#)
  - [New England City and Town Area Division](#)
  - [Combined New England City and Town Area](#)
- [County](#)
- County Subdivision - select a state:  

Select a State
- [Place](#)
- [Public Use Microdata Area \(PUMA\)](#)
- School Districts - (Note: there is no geographic component for "Remainder of State" demographic data presented in these geodatabases.)





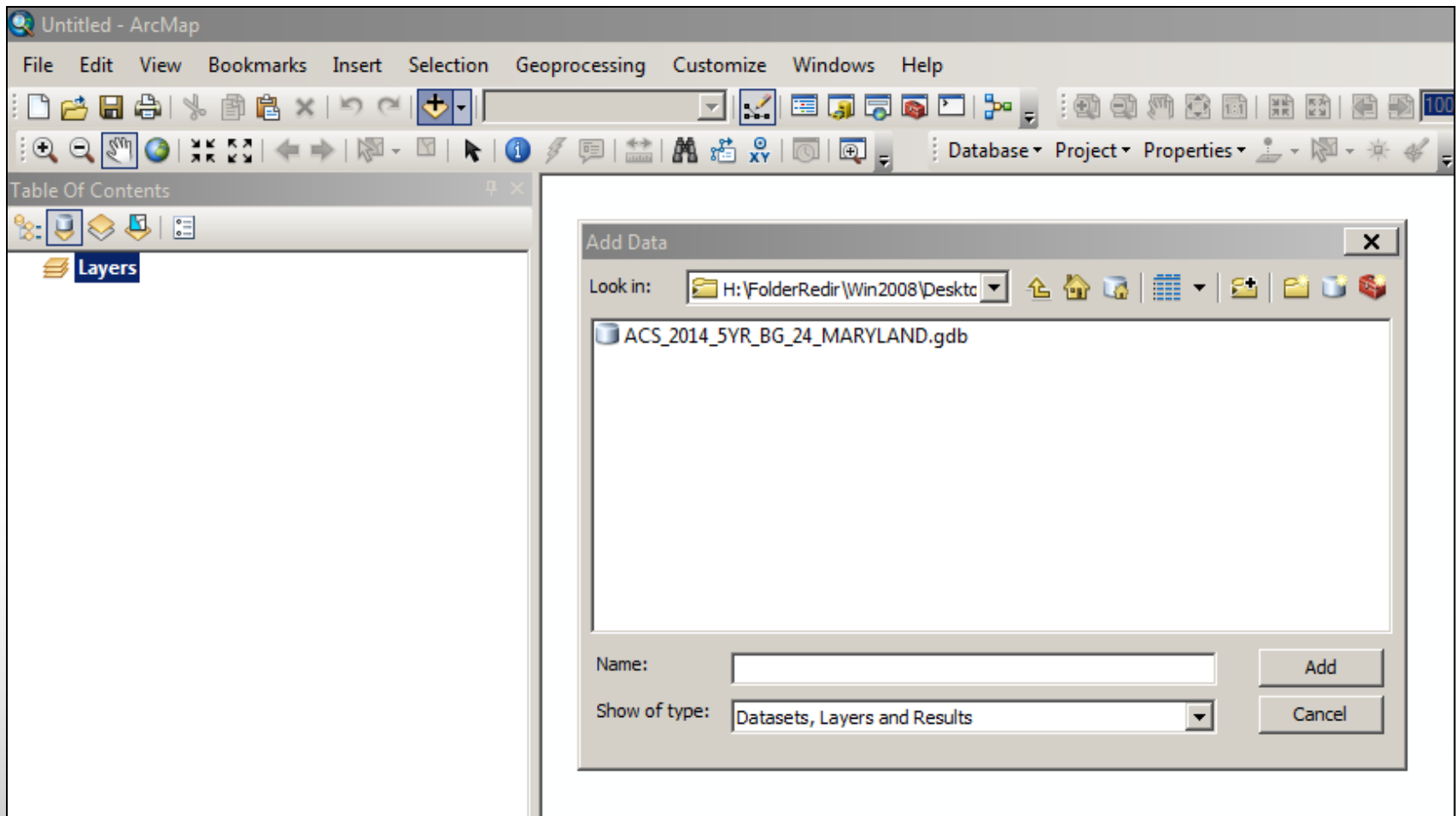
# Zipped Files Once Download is Complete

Name	Date modified	Type
 ACS_2014_5YR_BG_24_MARYLAND.gdb	5/3/2016 3:19 PM	File folder

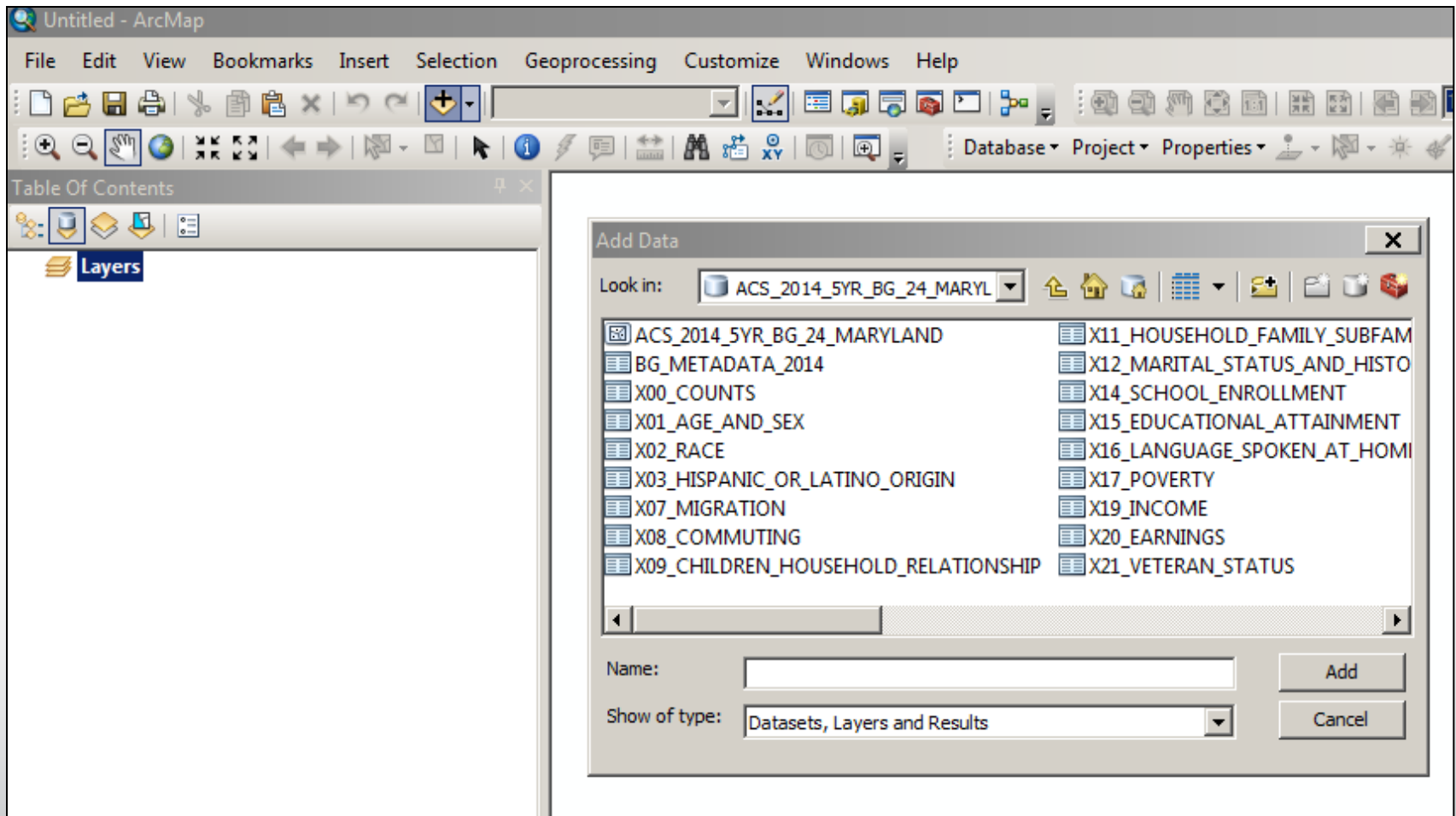
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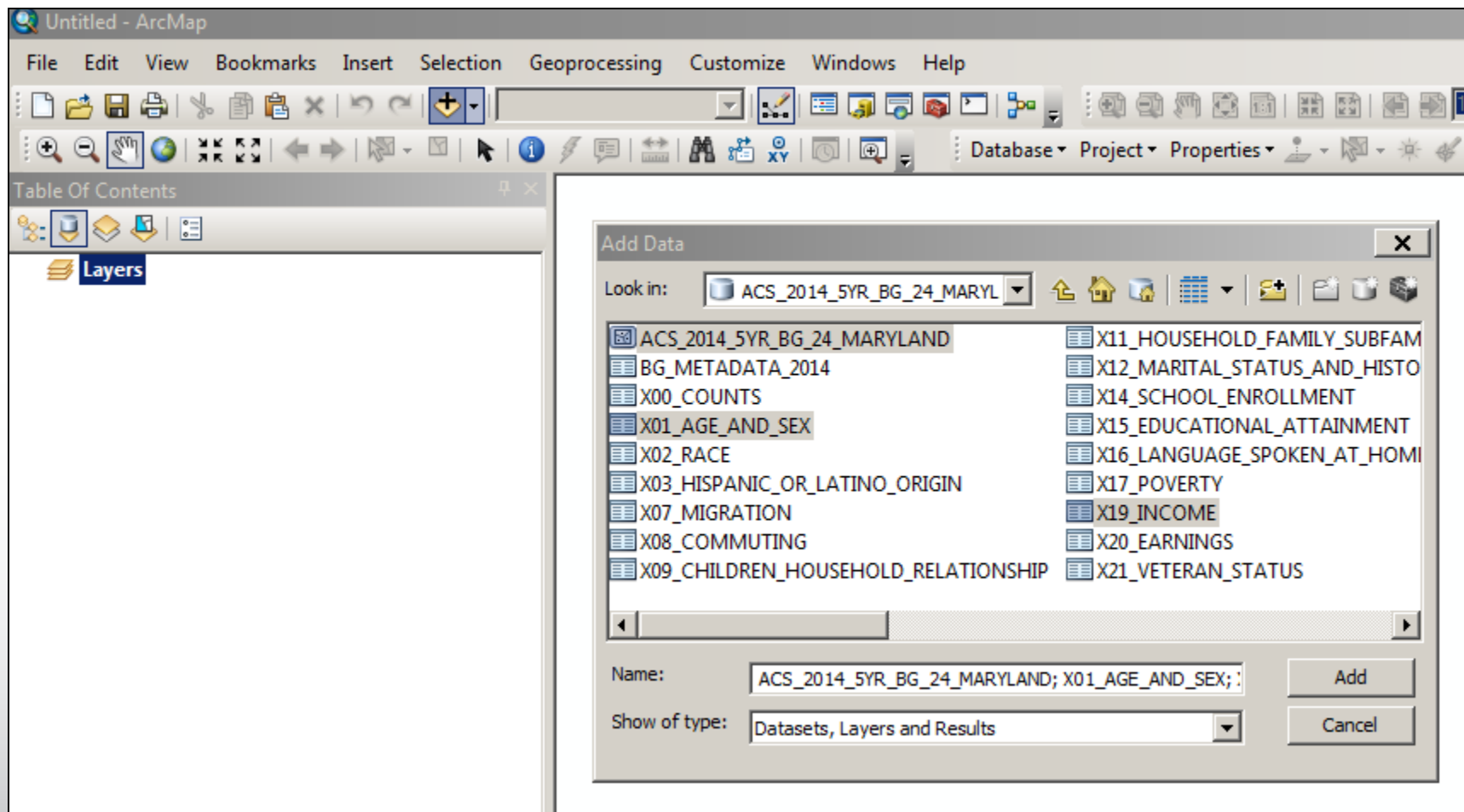
# Add Data Button to Upload GDB



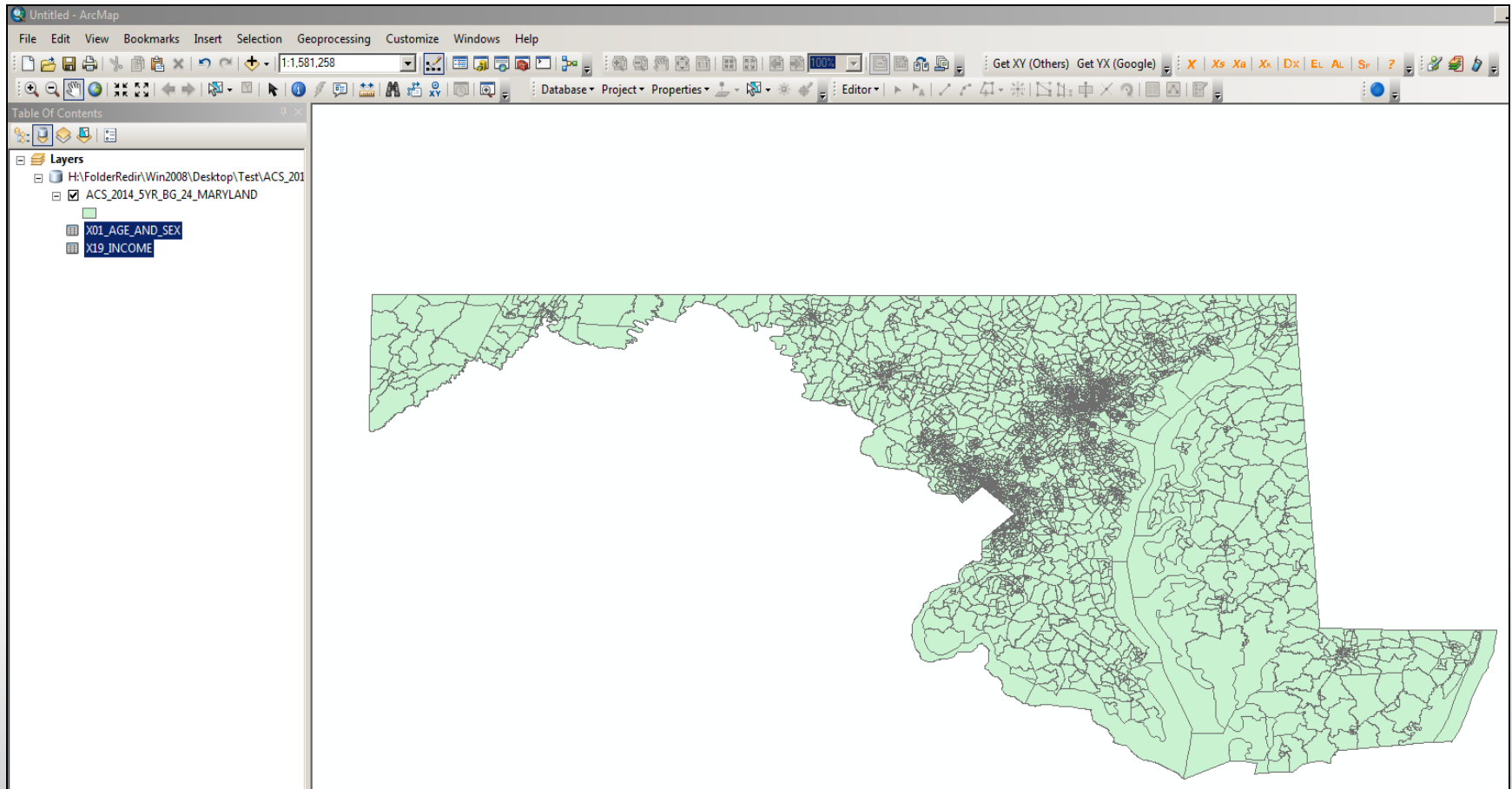
# Choose Feature Class and Tables



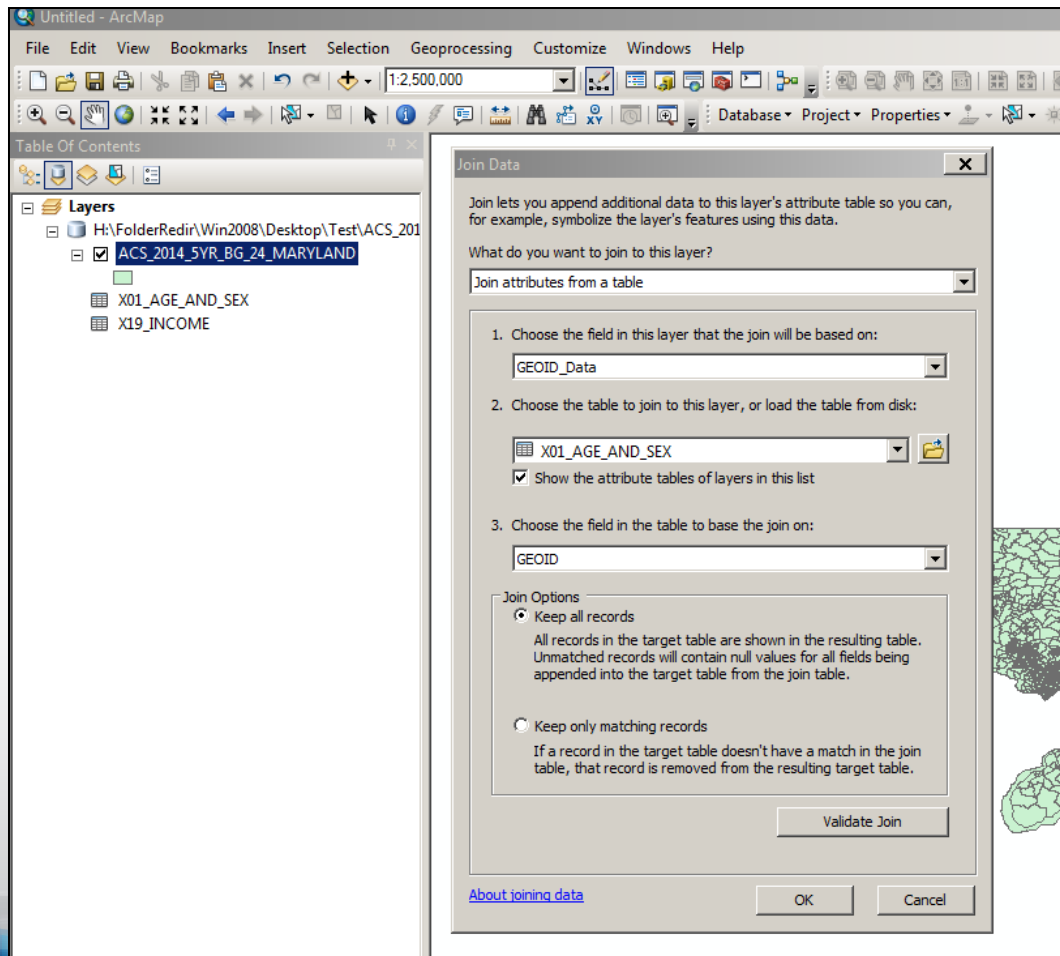
# Feature Class, Age and Sex, & Income



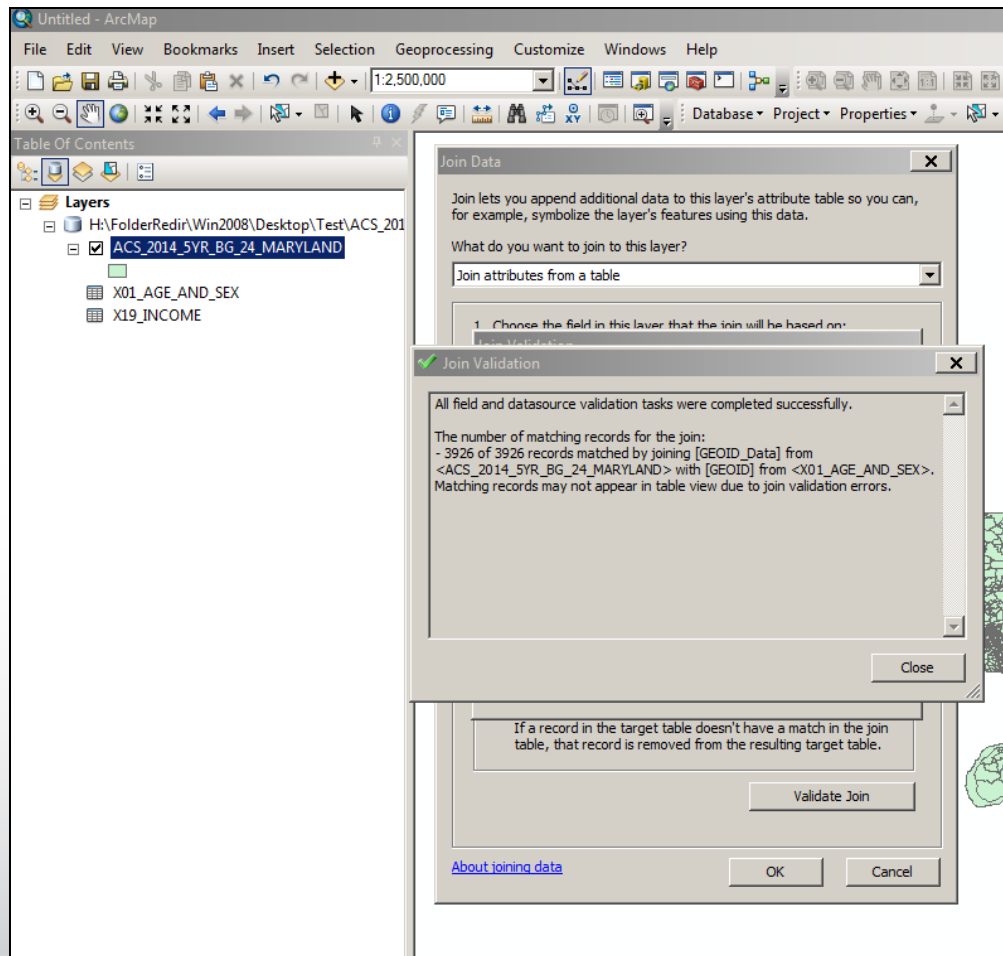
# View in ArcMap



# Joining the Table to the Feature Class



# Validation Check





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# Attribute Table When Join Successfully Occurs

ACS_2014_5YR_BG_24_MARYLAND							
	GEOID *	B01001e1	B01001m1	B01001e2	B01001m2	B01001e3	B01001m3
▶	15000US240054112023	863	226	454	156	12	18
	15000US240054111011	2320	203	1106	114	11	12
	15000US240054025033	1725	514	777	268	188	178
	15000US240054082001	1199	232	600	134	3	6
	15000US240054514022	690	299	276	113	33	39
	15000US240054401003	1054	255	525	145	28	30
	15000US240054208003	1234	345	573	199	10	17
	15000US240054906022	1950	264	891	209	16	24
	15000US240054060003	1666	318	925	212	24	28
	15000US240054060004	1674	336	899	217	20	32
	15000US240054111022	573	179	273	92	0	12
	15000US240054015031	1659	321	808	179	37	40
	15000US240253037002	1043	228	480	106	34	38
	15000US240253017022	2521	528	1304	321	82	95
	15000US240253042021	2303	355	1168	209	0	12
	15000US240054405002	462	133	252	89	13	19
	15000US240317010011	3125	344	1488	245	132	61
	15000US240317010013	762	124	363	70	0	12
	15000US240317010022	1797	234	829	127	62	53
	15000US240317010023	823	155	413	96	26	39

# Metadata – Example 1

BG_METADATA_2014		
OBJECTID *	Short_Name	
1	B00001e1	UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE COUNT OF THE POPULATION: Total: Total population -- (Estimate)
2	B00001m1	UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE COUNT OF THE POPULATION: Total: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
3	B00002e1	UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE HOUSING UNITS: Total: Housing units -- (Estimate)
4	B00002m1	UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE HOUSING UNITS: Total: Housing units -- (Margin of Error)
5	B01001e1	SEX BY AGE: Total: Total population -- (Estimate)
6	B01001m1	SEX BY AGE: Total: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
7	B01001e2	SEX BY AGE: Male: Total population -- (Estimate)
8	B01001m2	SEX BY AGE: Male: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
9	B01001e3	SEX BY AGE: Male: Under 5 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
10	B01001m3	SEX BY AGE: Male: Under 5 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
11	B01001e4	SEX BY AGE: Male: 5 to 9 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
12	B01001m4	SEX BY AGE: Male: 5 to 9 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
13	B01001e5	SEX BY AGE: Male: 10 to 14 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
14	B01001m5	SEX BY AGE: Male: 10 to 14 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
15	B01001e6	SEX BY AGE: Male: 15 to 17 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
16	B01001m6	SEX BY AGE: Male: 15 to 17 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
17	B01001e7	SEX BY AGE: Male: 18 and 19 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
18	B01001m7	SEX BY AGE: Male: 18 and 19 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
19	B01001e8	SEX BY AGE: Male: 20 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
20	B01001m8	SEX BY AGE: Male: 20 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
21	B01001e9	SEX BY AGE: Male: 21 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
22	B01001m9	SEX BY AGE: Male: 21 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
23	B01001e10	SEX BY AGE: Male: 22 to 24 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
24	B01001m10	SEX BY AGE: Male: 22 to 24 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
25	B01001e11	SEX BY AGE: Male: 25 to 29 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
26	B01001m11	SEX BY AGE: Male: 25 to 29 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
27	B01001e12	SEX BY AGE: Male: 30 to 34 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
28	B01001m12	SEX BY AGE: Male: 30 to 34 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
29	B01001e13	SEX BY AGE: Male: 35 to 39 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
30	B01001m13	SEX BY AGE: Male: 35 to 39 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
31	B01001e14	SEX BY AGE: Male: 40 to 44 years: Total population -- (Estimate)

# Metadata – Example 2

Short_Name	Full_Name
B00001e1	UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE COUNT OF THE POPULATION: Total: Total population -- (Estimate)
B00001m1	UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE COUNT OF THE POPULATION: Total: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B00002e1	UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE HOUSING UNITS: Total: Housing units -- (Estimate)
B00002m1	UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE HOUSING UNITS: Total: Housing units -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e1	SEX BY AGE: Total: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m1	SEX BY AGE: Total: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e2	SEX BY AGE: Male: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m2	SEX BY AGE: Male: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e3	SEX BY AGE: Male: Under 5 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m3	SEX BY AGE: Male: Under 5 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e4	SEX BY AGE: Male: 5 to 9 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m4	SEX BY AGE: Male: 5 to 9 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e5	SEX BY AGE: Male: 10 to 14 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m5	SEX BY AGE: Male: 10 to 14 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e6	SEX BY AGE: Male: 15 to 17 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m6	SEX BY AGE: Male: 15 to 17 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e7	SEX BY AGE: Male: 18 and 19 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m7	SEX BY AGE: Male: 18 and 19 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e8	SEX BY AGE: Male: 20 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m8	SEX BY AGE: Male: 20 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e9	SEX BY AGE: Male: 21 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m9	SEX BY AGE: Male: 21 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e10	SEX BY AGE: Male: 22 to 24 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m10	SEX BY AGE: Male: 22 to 24 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e11	SEX BY AGE: Male: 25 to 29 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m11	SEX BY AGE: Male: 25 to 29 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e12	SEX BY AGE: Male: 30 to 34 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m12	SEX BY AGE: Male: 30 to 34 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e13	SEX BY AGE: Male: 35 to 39 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m13	SEX BY AGE: Male: 35 to 39 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e14	SEX BY AGE: Male: 40 to 44 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m14	SEX BY AGE: Male: 40 to 44 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e15	SEX BY AGE: Male: 45 to 49 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m15	SEX BY AGE: Male: 45 to 49 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e16	SEX BY AGE: Male: 50 to 54 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m16	SEX BY AGE: Male: 50 to 54 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e17	SEX BY AGE: Male: 55 to 59 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m17	SEX BY AGE: Male: 55 to 59 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
B01001e18	SEX BY AGE: Male: 60 and 61 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
B01001m18	SEX BY AGE: Male: 60 and 61 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)

# Common Mistakes

- When joining tables to the feature class, use the GEOID\_Data field NOT the GEOID field
- Metadata can be viewed as a table or text document

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# Source Us!

U.S. Census Bureau's [YYYY-YYYY] American Community Survey [1/3/5]-year [estimates/statistics/data release]



## College Destinations: How We Rank Them

American Institute for Economic Research - Apr 7, 2014

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2011  
American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B01003;  
using ...



## NMSU Valencia County Extension providing youth develo...

New Mexico State University NewsCenter - Apr 14, 2015

... Mexico and \$53,046 for the United States, according to the U.S.  
Census Bureau's 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year  
Estimate.



## Census Estimates Show Progress Toward ACA Coverag...

Health Affairs (blog) - Sep 28, 2015

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 and 2014 American  
Community Survey 1-year estimates from Table S2701 in American  
Fact Finder.

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The logo features a stylized graphic of blue and orange dots arranged in a circular pattern, resembling a network or data points.

# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA USERS GROUP

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  - Improve understanding of the value and utility of ACS data.
  - Promote information sharing among data users about key ACS data issues and applications
- Membership is free and open to all interested ACS data users
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# Questions?