



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

May 17, 2017

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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

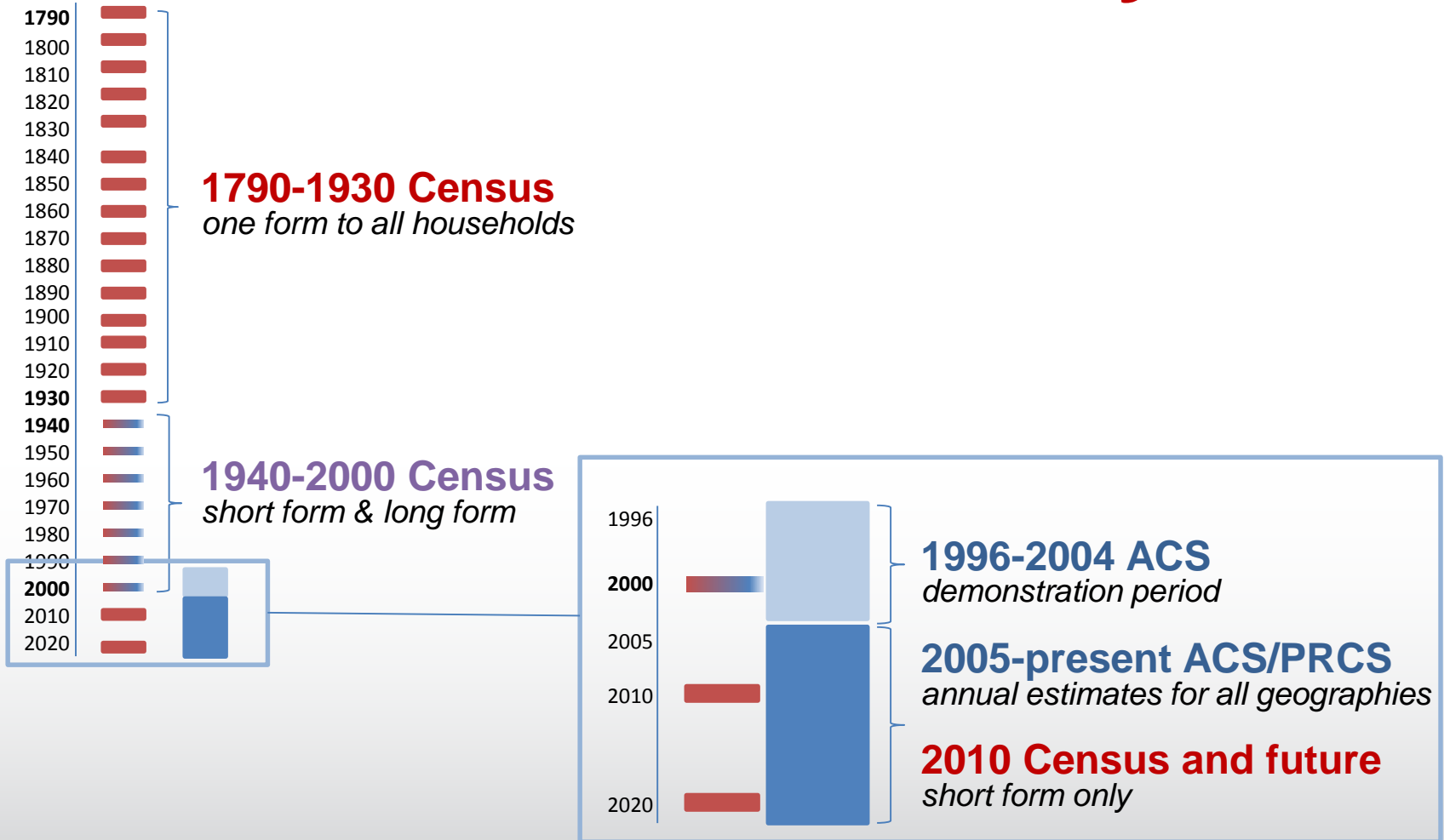
ACS Basics

- 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 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) materials:

- Top (Paper Questionnaire):** Shows a section titled "Housing" with questions about the type of dwelling, number of units, and various household amenities like plumbing, heating, and appliances.
- Middle (Paper Envelope):** Shows the back of a survey envelope with the "U.S. Department of Commerce" logo and a "Please Log In" section for entering a 10-digit User ID.
- Bottom (Computer Screen):** Shows the online survey interface with a welcome message, a barcode, and a "Please Log In" section for entering a 10-digit User ID.

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 Data Collection Process

Online



Mail



Telephone



Personal Visit



Self-Response Modes

Non-Response Modes

ACS Content

Social

Ancestry
Citizenship Status
Disability Status
Educational Attainment &
School Enrollment
Fertility
Grandparents as Caregivers
Language Spoken at Home
Marital History; Marital Status
Migration/Residence 1 Year
Ago
Period of Military Service
Place of Birth
Undergraduate Field of
Degree
Veteran Status
Year of Entry

Demographic

Age
Hispanic or Latino Origin
Race
Relationship to Householder
Sex

Economic

Commuting (Journey to Work)
& Place of Work
Employment Status
Food Stamps/SNAP
Health Insurance Coverage
Income and Earnings
Industry, Occupation, & Class
of Worker
Poverty Status
Work Status Last Year

Housing

Bedrooms
Computer and Internet Use
House Heating Fuel
Kitchen Facilities
Occupancy/Vacancy Status
Occupants Per Room
Plumbing Facilities
Rent
Rooms
Selected Monthly Owner Costs
Telephone Service Available
Tenure (Owner/Renter)
Units in Structure
Value of Home
Vehicles Available
Year Householder Moved into Unit
Year Structure Built

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

Table IDs

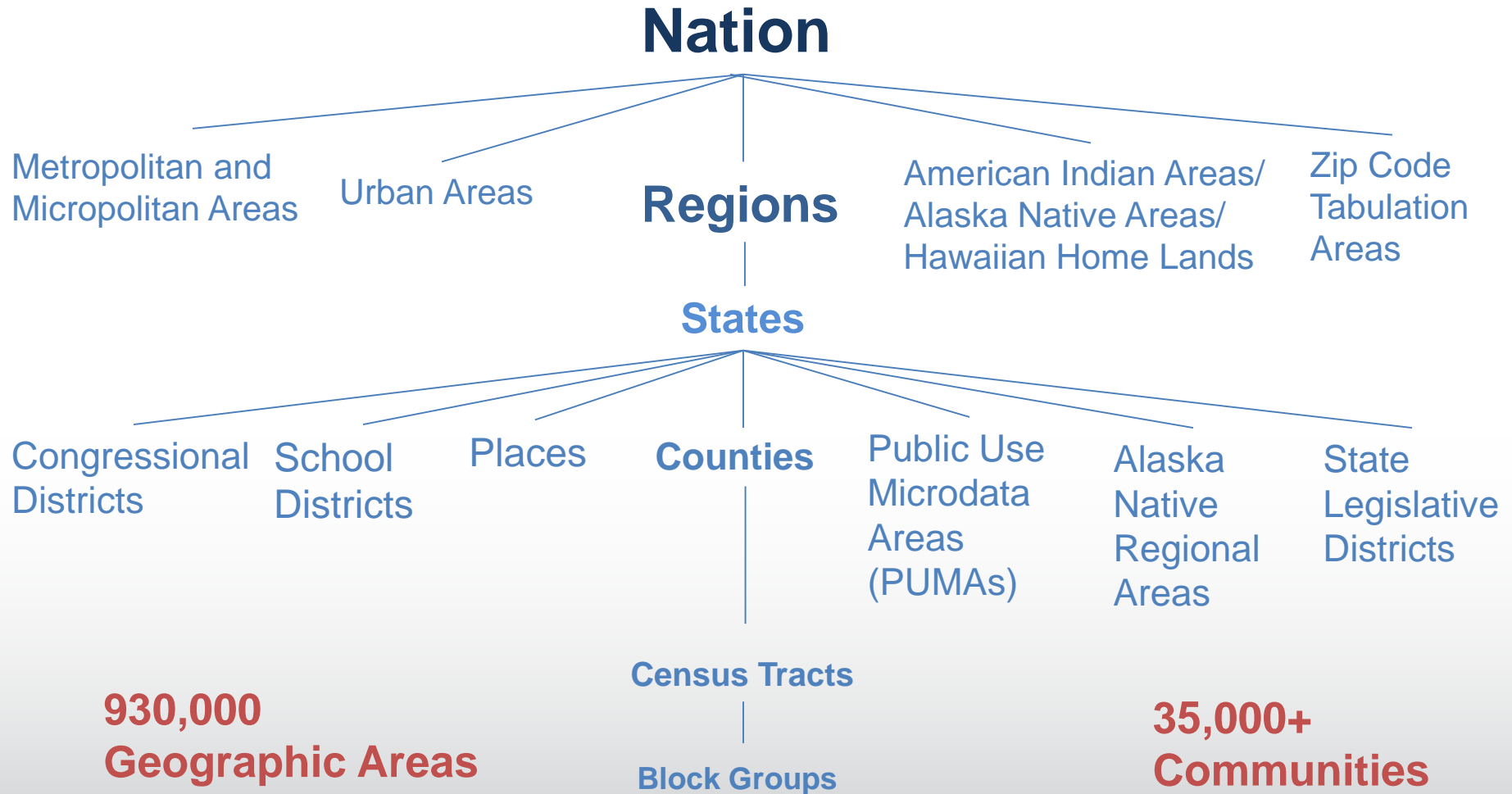
B 17 001 A

Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (White Alone)

- B=Table Type
 - Detailed Table/Base Table
- 17=Subject
 - Poverty Status
- 001=Sequential Number
- A=Race Iteration (Selected Tables)
 - White Alone

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/table-ids-explained.html

Selected Census Geographic Concepts



Availability of ACS Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	1-Year Estimates	1-Year Supplemental Estimates	5-Year Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X	X
20,000 to 64,999		X	X
Less than 20,000			X
Planned Release Date	September 14	October 19	December 7

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html

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Background Information

- Geodatabases bring together geography from the 2015 TIGER/Line Shapefiles and data from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates
- The public and Census partners wanted an easier way to join ACS data to geographic boundaries

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.

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United States Census Bureau

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About Us: Our Research

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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%	↓

View All

* 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](#)
- [Reference](#)
- [Thematic](#)
- [Maps Available for Purchase](#)

Data

- [TIGER Products](#)
- [Census Geocoder](#)
- [Partnership Shapefiles](#)
- [Relationship Files](#)
- [Gazetteer Files](#)
- [Block Assignment Files](#)
- [Name Lookup Tables](#)
- [Tallies](#)
- [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

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 - 2016, CD 113
<u>TIGER Geodatabases</u>	Useful for users needing national datasets or all major boundaries 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	2013-2016
<u>TIGER/Line with Selected Demographic and Economic Data</u>	Data from selected attributes from the 2010 Census, 2006-2010 through 2010-2014 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 through 2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates data profiles, CBP data.	Full detail (not generalized)	Limited	2012 CBP, 2010, 2006-2010 to 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates
<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	2013-2016, 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	2013-2016
<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	Current, 2015 ACS, 2014 ACS, 2010 Census

2011 – 2015 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. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area is titled 'Geography' and features a sidebar with links for Maps & Data, Maps, and Data. The 'Maps & Data' section is expanded, showing a list of links. The '2011 - 2015 Detailed Tables' link is circled in red. The 'Data' section is also expanded, showing a list of links. The '2010 Census' section is also expanded, showing a list of links. The 'County Business Patterns' section is also expanded, showing a list of links.

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

Geography

Main | About | Maps & Data | Reference | Partnerships | Education | Research | GSS-I | Contact Us

Maps & Data

[Maps & Data Main Page](#)

Maps

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

- [Census Data Mapper](#)
- [Reference](#)
- [Thematic](#)
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Data

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TIGER/Line® with Selected Demographic and Economic Data

American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates — Geodatabase Format

- [2011 - 2015 Detailed Tables](#)
- [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](#)

www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-data.html

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Choose Census Geography of Your Choice

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

→ 2011 - 2015 Detailed Tables

These geodatabases bring together geography from the 2015 TIGER/Line Shapefiles and data from the 2011-2015 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 ▼

GO
- Census Tract - select a state:

Select a State ▼

GO
- [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](#)

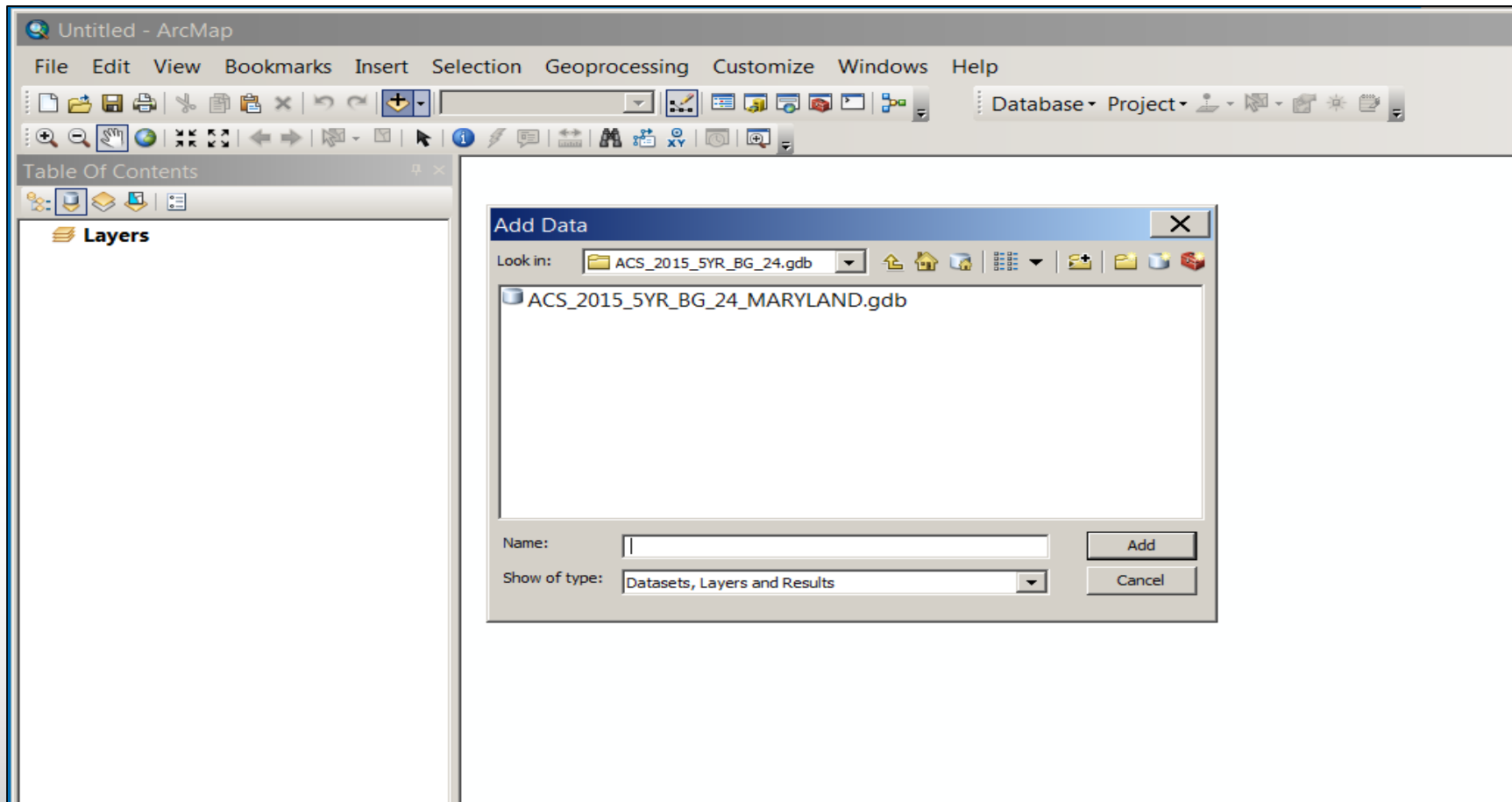
Zipped Files Once Download is Complete

Name	Date modified	Type
 ACS_2015_5YR_BG_24_MARYLAND.gdb	3/20/2017 1:38 PM	File folder

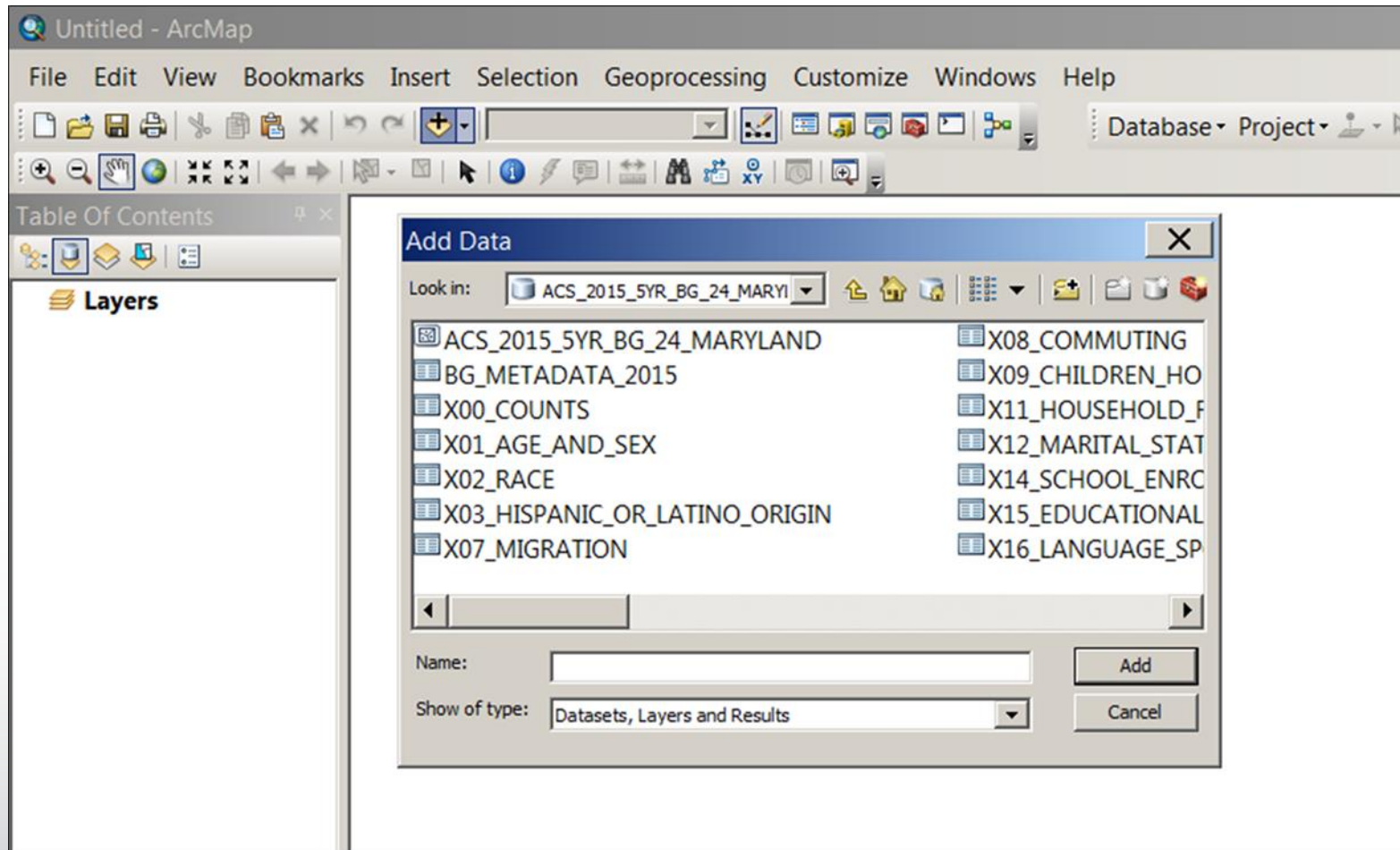
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Add to Upload GDB

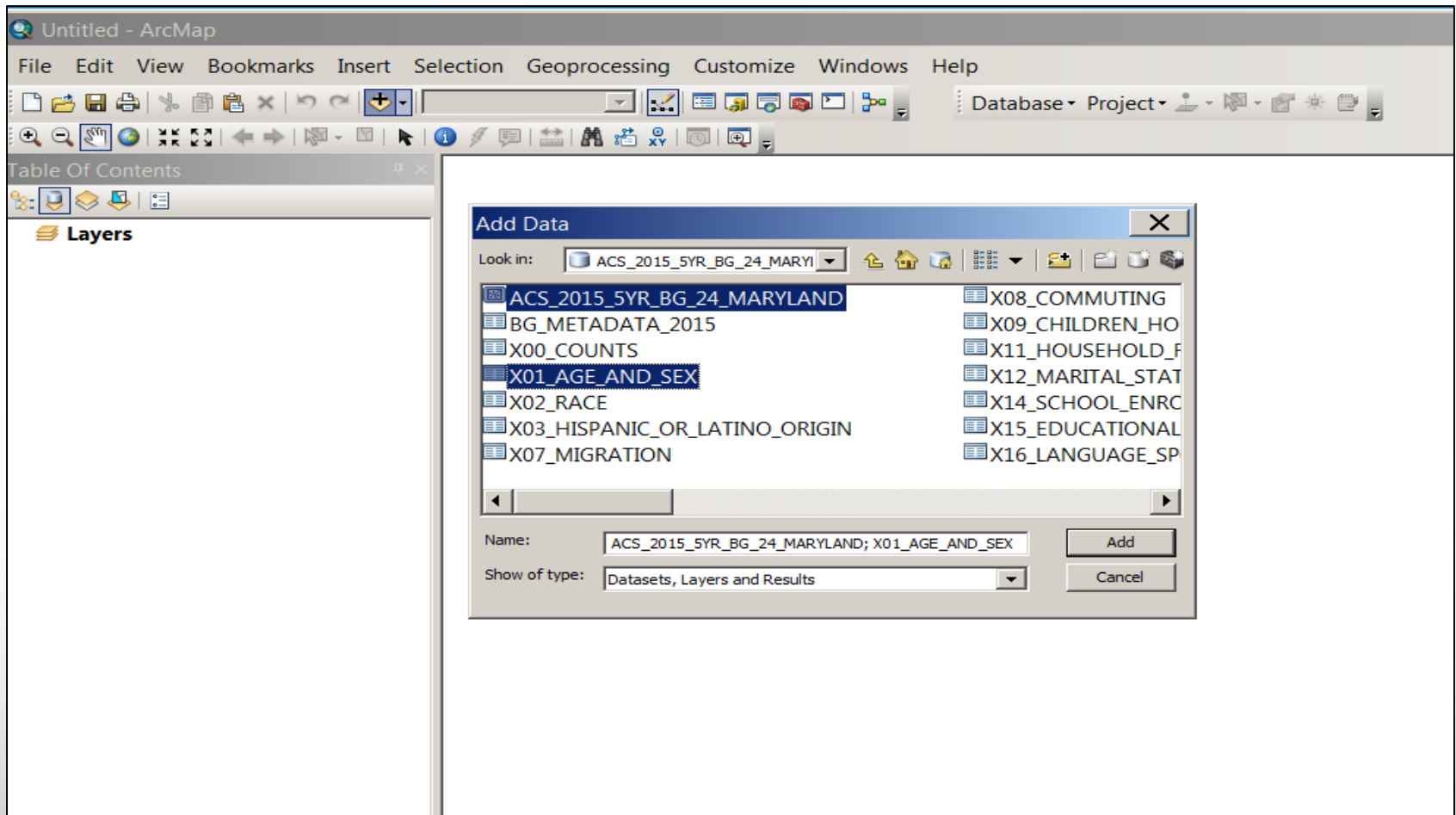


Choose Feature Class and Tables

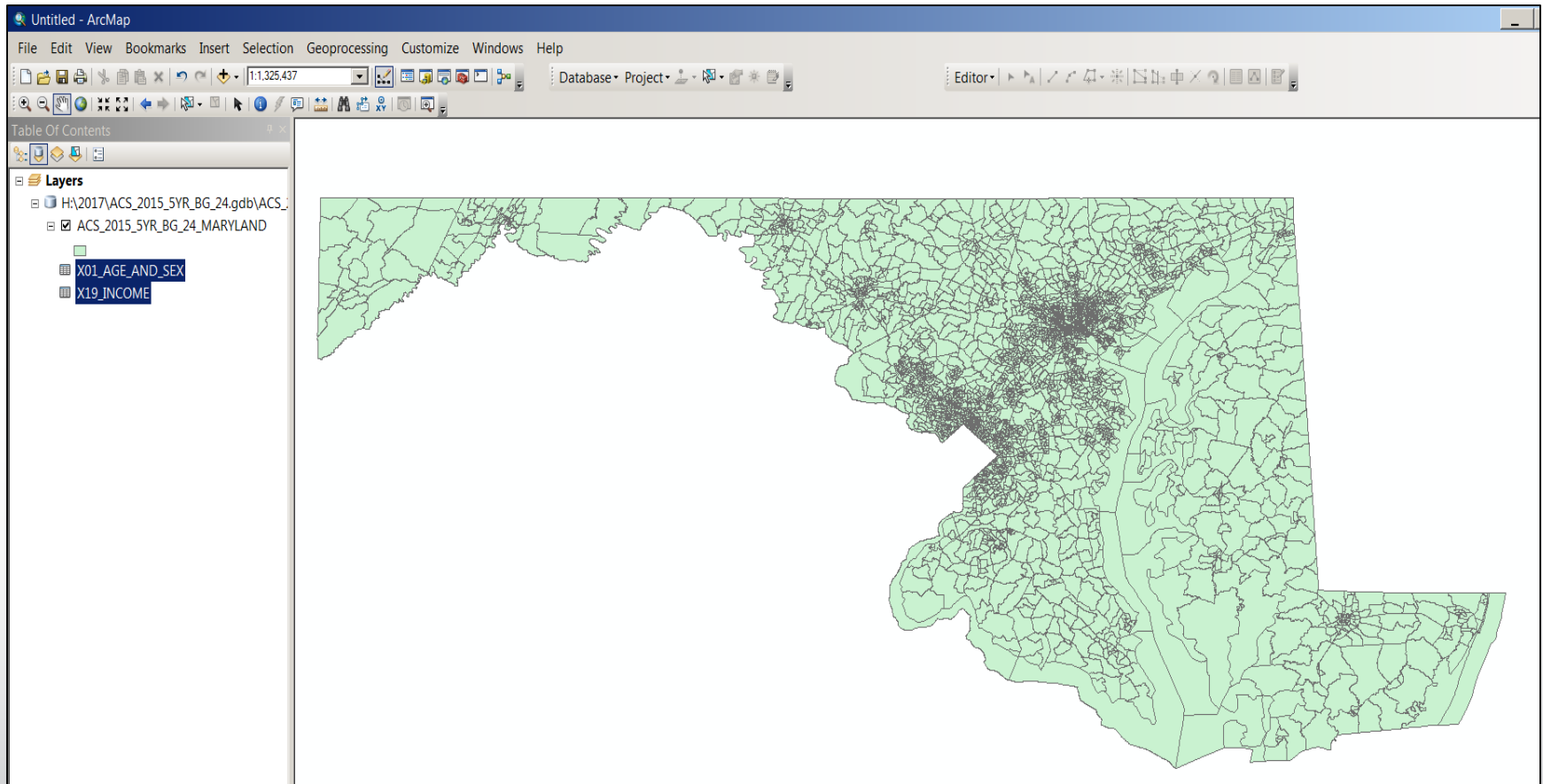


www.census.gov/geo/reference/mtfcc.html

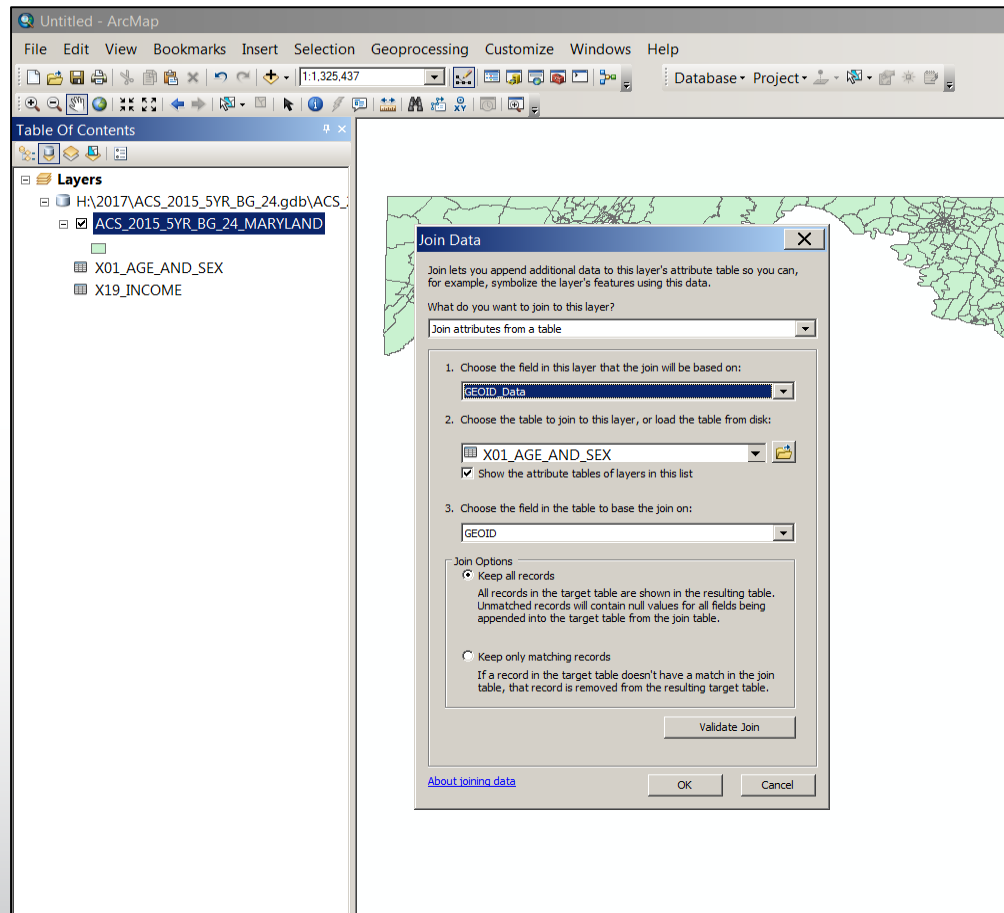
Feature Class, Age and Sex, & Income



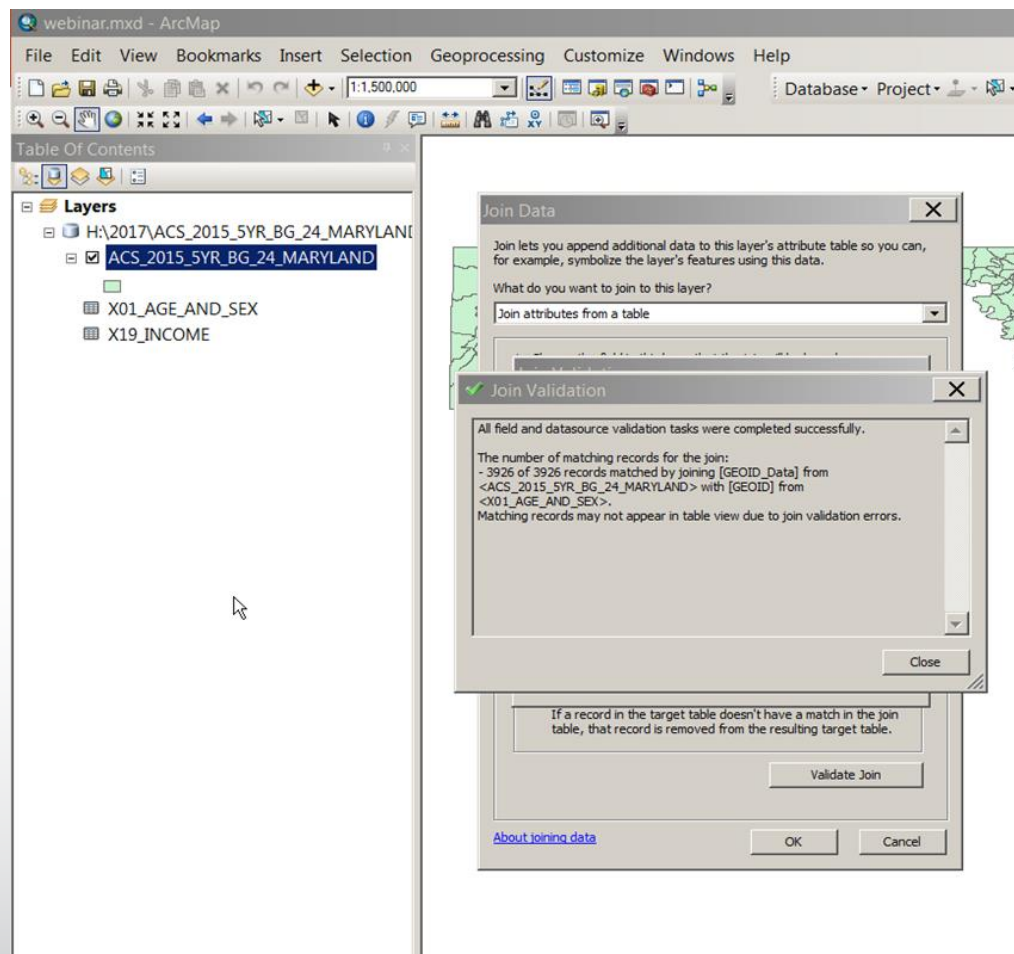
View in ArcMap



Joining the Table to the Feature Class



Validation Check



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Attribute Table When Join Successfully Occurs

ACS_2015_5YR_BG_24_MARYLAND						
GEOID *	B01001e1	B01001m1	B01001e2	B01001m2	B01001e3	B01001m3
15000US240010001001	528	158	257	96	0	12
15000US240010001002	1907	229	879	154	69	61
15000US240010001003	1007	250	515	137	13	20
15000US240010002001	862	184	410	93	0	12
15000US240010002002	833	175	427	112	0	12
15000US240010002003	2590	383	1998	315	122	126
15000US240010003001	1658	272	846	195	45	42
15000US240010003002	622	202	373	150	12	21
15000US240010003003	346	110	170	51	0	12
15000US240010004001	701	163	318	108	23	33
15000US240010004002	1382	345	780	241	16	18
15000US240010004003	740	267	308	128	10	15
15000US240010005001	1676	230	936	171	48	48
15000US240010005002	867	229	414	109	0	12
15000US240010006001	2141	307	950	191	57	54
15000US240010006002	627	185	285	105	25	29
15000US240010007001	1499	266	592	157	108	76
15000US240010007002	1965	397	1024	201	135	63
15000US240010008001	1155	183	609	127	51	55
15000US240010008002	1102	247	491	133	83	48
15000US240010009001	1221	288	638	161	7	12

Metadata – Example 1

ArcCatalog - H:\2017\ACS_2015_5YR_BG_24_MARYLAND.gdb\BG_METADATA_2015

File Edit View Go Geoprocessing Customize Windows Help

H:\2017\ACS_2015_5YR_BG_24_MARYLAND.gdb\BG_METADATA_2015

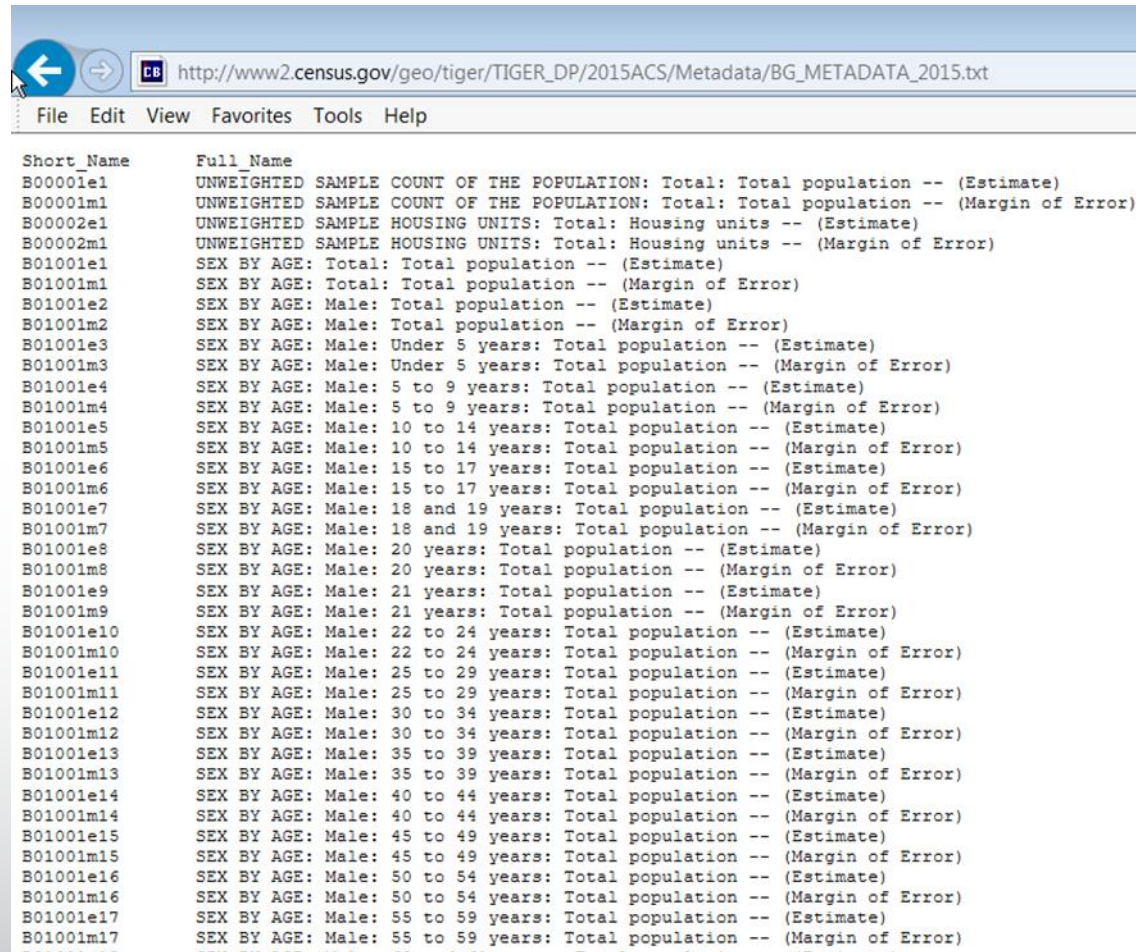
Catalog Tree

- H:\
 - \$RECYCLE.BIN
 - .matplotlib
 - 1_desktop 3.9
 - 2017
 - ACS_2015_5YR_BG_24.gdb
 - ACS_2015_5YR_BG_24_MAI
 - BG_METADATA_2015
 - X00_COUNTS
 - X01_AGE_AND_SEX
 - X02_RACE
 - X03_HISPANIC_OR_LATI
 - X07_MIGRATION
 - X08_COMMUTING
 - X09_CHILDREN_HOUSE
 - X11_HOUSEHOLD_FAM
 - X12_MARITAL_STATUS_
 - X14_SCHOOL_ENROLLM
 - X15_EDUCATIONAL_AT
 - X16_LANGUAGE_SPOKE
 - X17_POVERTY
 - X19_INCOME
 - X20_EARNINGS
 - X21_VETERAN_STATUS
 - X22_FOOD_STAMPS
 - X23_EMPLOYMENT_STA
 - X24_INDUSTRY_OCCUP
 - X25_HOUSING_CHARAC

Contents Preview Description

OBJECTID	Short_Name	Full_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)
32	B01001m14	SEX BY AGE: Male: 40 to 44 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
33	B01001e15	SEX BY AGE: Male: 45 to 49 years: Total population -- (Estimate)
34	B01001m15	SEX BY AGE: Male: 45 to 49 years: Total population -- (Margin of Error)
35	B01001e16	SEX BY AGE: Male: 50 to 54 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)

Tips

- 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

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

Continue the Conversation

#CensusGeo #ACSdata



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More information online:
<https://www.census.gov/geography.html>
<http://www.census.gov/acs>



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(800) 923-8282 (Census)
(301) 763-1128 (Geography questions)
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Questions?



- Purpose:
 - 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
- 2017 ACS Data Users Conference, May 11-12
- Webinars and special sessions at professional meetings planned
- Users group website and online community

acsdatacommunity.prb.org

Need Local Stats?

- Assistance Near You!

Our regional data staff can help you access local statistics from the ACS or offer training to help build your skills. Contact us at:

1-844-ASK-DATA

(1-844-275-3282)

census.askdata@census.gov

