# data.census.gov – Transcript of audio

This is a site where you would go if you have a question and you don't know who to talk to. You can send an email or you can go on the site and request training or submit your question online. We are a large group throughout the nation and there is always someone ready for you. Today what I intend is for us to learn the difference between this program and the survey data. There are vast differences in the data based on the survey deity data or the census. Often times we hear in the media, according to the Census Bureau or what was just released today, sometimes the source, the actual source is lacking and it can be a source of frustration and confusion to the public if they wanted to replicate what they are talking about. Let me give you a high level overview of the difference then we will learn about the resources available online. I am going to devote a lot of time to the tool that most people use however, there are tools that can get you data and you don't always have to go through the website. We are here and we begin with the census. It is mandated that every 10 years we have to count everybody that lives in the United States and we do this for several reasons. The most important reason is to apportion the number of representative seats in Congress. When that is done that is usually the first set of data in the Decennial that is released. When the apportionment is done and we know how many states that how many representatives, the next level of data that is released is redistricting. That is because if a state loses a congressional seat they have to redraw all of the King national congressional boundaries. They may have to redraw and allocate the representative territory to the new seats that they were just awarded. You have those primary reasons but then you are looking at federal programs that rely on census data. A few months ago we released a report on census data that updated our figure in terms of redistributing $2.8 trillion federally annually. Interesting read on how it is allocated and distributed. This will take us to the particular sites where we can get additional information on this. But the Decennial is our beginning point and then in between 2010 at 2020 we also need updates on the population because people are constantly moving. Some states lose population and some gain population. We have a program, which is the population estimates program. This is where you get annual up dates to the Decennial Census and these are the numbers that go in between the decades. We also provide the numbers for the county, the nation, the state, the Metro areas and incorporated places. What do we mean by incorporated places? Those are the cities, towns, villages, that house a functioning government. So these data, by geography, are released periodically throughout the year and you have the release schedule on the right-hand side of the screen. Right now we have concluded releasing all of the data sets from the population estimates and that is current through January 2022., December 2023 we release the national and state numbers and this is current. Then we start the whole process again where in March 2024 we release for the county in richer areas as well as cities and towns and the housing unit numbers as well. It is a way of keeping current with what is going on in the nation in terms of population and housing and it is important to have that and we use the Decennial Census , community serve, and we use birth and death records to update the numbers. A lot of cities plan using the estimates and so on and so forth so, lots of information to be had. The biggest of them all is the American community survey. This is the data that gives you information on a community, estate, a county, track level. This is where you get information such as median income and employment status. Disability status. Education status. A lot of people confuse it because they say, according to the Census Bureau, then they call and they say I want educational figures from 2020. And we say from the 2020 Decennial or the survey? We have to remind the public that the census basically collects demographics and housing information. Demographics include who resides in that housing unit, the relationships in the household. Birth date, birth year, race, ethnicity, origin. Then we look at the type of housing. Those are the only questions that we ask every 10 years. People get confused thinking that we ask these characteristic type data or questions on the Decennial and we don't. It is the American community

survey and we use to ask that before 2000 and I think encode 2000, that was the last time that we asked these kind of questions because there was a long form that a portion of the nation would receive during the Decennial and everybody would get the short form. During that time we realize that data is kind of stagnant and in some locations it is irrelevant and old. So we need constant updated information and that is where the long form was separated from the Decennial and that began an annual survey. This happens every 10 years and the Decennial happens every 10 years. There are a lot of topics that are covered this is what we get in their grandson their grant applications as well as impact studies and community profiles. So on and so forth. The important thing to know about this is when we release it and what we release because, there are several releases, a one year estimate that will happen next week. And the five-year relief that happens in December. Key differences between the two are the thresholds and I will explain that. This is an overview of the topics that are covered based on the questions in the questionnaire. You can find a copy of the questionnaire on our website. And based on how the question is asked, we get the statistics. So, under the social characteristics you have asked about disability status and what kind of disability. You have access to language spoken at home. You have migration, private charter. So on and so forth. The demographic questions are the same as what we ask in a and a survey. We have six ongoing surveys that we do year in and year out. So a lot of confusion can be had out there if you don't know what you are receiving or need. Under the economic portion you have access to the class of worker. What field of industry are we looking at? We have patterns. You have information on health insurance. Whether it is paid for privately or through exchange or if it is part of a safety net. So, you have that and housing characteristics give us insight into the community. You can look at the units that are built within the community. This gives an indication of areas that they can go into and offer remodeling services and grades. Whether you own or rent you have access to housing costs in the community. We also have Internet use. We learned that there are a lot of shortfalls because we shut down and there are students that don't have computers or they have cell phone service but not Internet. How can they register for these things if they don't have access. We have schools that sent kids home and they were doing homework on an iPad or iPhone or they would have to drive to Home Depot or the library where they could keep their work open. So you have information on that that can prove valuable for a lot of different reasons. The release dates -- and this is something that you need to keep in mind. There are three graphic limitations to the data that we can release. In other words, we have two major releases every year. The one year and the five-year. One year is very current information however it is only released for those places or geographies that have 65,000 or more in population. This is where the pitfall happens. They want the most current information for all of the counties in their state. When they look at the spread shot, there are a lot of things that are not working for everybody else, it is a five-year estimate that gives you really rich data. It is available for all geographies including the ones that have a one-year release. Big places like New York, Dallas, Los Angeles, the walkie. Those places would get a one-year. It is important to keep that in mind because when you use the tool it is going to bubble up to the top the most current information that it thinks you were looking for it based on what you tell it. So we have a lot of information and a lot of surveys. I'm not going to go through everything because we would be here until 8:00 at night. Here is just a flavor of what we can explore depending on what you are working on or the crest that you have gotten. With many surveys that we have, we have a tool. These tools are all based on the information that people have requested from us. So, we have interactive maps that are available to you. We have visualizations that are also interactive and we have a lot of data tools and equity tools. So I do invite you to explore the different tools available and if there are any questions you can reach out to me and work on getting you the information that you need. But, if you are uncertain if you have the data or if the geography is covered, anything like that, you can use our census survey Explorer tool and this tool, based on the keywords or the tab that you select, if you click on those tabs, they will expand and their will be more options. It will bring up to you a list that will give you a synopsis of a survey with the purpose and the

geography. So it helps you refine and get into the right area because not all of the data that we publish is on the tools. There are some data that are released that only reside on the webpage or the problem that is -- projection that is showing up. Those projections don't show up in any of our tools but if you go to the projections page you will find the table there. There is economic and business data indicator data. It resides on that page within their own tools. If you need any help in that, please feel free to reach out and we can work on that. We will spend some time on census.gov. For most people, this is the easiest tool that we have. We get to a complete anything smaller than that, you have to use census.gov. This is what you should be viewing. Can someone confirm this is what you are looking at? Silences approval. So, let's go. This is where you are going to land and there are several things that you can go to pay off the bat. You should be seeing need data quickly and this is where you go to pull up quick facts. One helpful item on the page is that people often times questioned the validity of our surveys. Our people. They just don't know what is going on. For most of our surveys, what happens is, a sample address is picked. A letter is sent to the address. It is just the address so when people whole receive that letter they think they are getting scammed. This is an area they can go to and it will point people in the right direction. This is where there are ways that you can -- can I interrupt you?

Yes .

you are not sharing your screen. Go to the left corner and click on share my desktop.

Oh, I see. So, now you are seeing the screen?

Yes. This is the area on the lower left. This is where you can go if you need really quick data. This section here above it is where people can go to get that information, that help, to identify that the survey is legitimate. That the person really does work for us and any questions. The only caveat to this, sometimes if the field representative is relatively new and they are out there working, they may not show up in the system yet. This is all in our site. Under contact us. They can find those regional office phone numbers and they can verify those numbers. We are going to go right into the tab that says that. Right off the bat, on the lower left-hand side you can see we have explored data. That is on the data.census.gov. You can type something into the search engine and hit return and way for it to come back. Or you can go to the advanced search, click on the link, and this is for people who know what they are looking for. Most of the time when you are using this tool, there are three things you need to have. That is your topics. Or your variables. What are you looking for? Are you looking for entertainment? Secondary degree? Income and poverty? Household income? Earnings? Housing? The characteristics of the housing? Those are your topics and your variables. The next thing you have to have is your geography. What are you looking for. Are you looking for state, county, what level of data? Lastly what usually helps in filtering the results that you get back is if you have a time period in mind. To what current data? Do you want to do time analysis and then work your way back? Or do you just want to do 2021 in 2000 night teen? It usually helps to and the she ate if you activate it you can speak your request. It will be searching out or listening for those keywords that will initiate the search.

[ Captioners transitioning. ]

I'm going to see what is going on with languages. Okay, I typed in, as you can see, it started to give back results. So what do I want to see? I want to see languages spoken at home. Immediately the toll, you have three petitions. It brings back results for you. All the time, this tool results to U.S. numbers and then you filter it by using these, on the left-hand side, to zero in on the area of interest, your geography of interests. But what I wanted to point out to you is that right off the bat you've got high-level data,

right underneath that number, you have a source. And of course it is one year because it is the U.S. but if you are going down lower, remember you've got to look for the five-year estimate. Then as you scroll down, you are going to see -- right now we got 140 tables. Okay, that have languages as a variable in that table. And the majority of the table you're looking at right here, these are S 1601, 03, 02, those are called subject tables and there's a lot of information on that particular subject. Then below it, you've got these B tables, these are the base tables. And they are very succinct in terms of the data that they pull back. And if you scroll further down, there are also maps that you can pull off that map out the particular variable. Right now the default geography is the U.S.. But this is how you initiate a casual search. So if you proceed from this mode, you have to keep in mind that you have this little tool that keeps track of what you are telling it. It has a little lock on the left-hand side. That means that you can't clear it. Okay, it will stay there. If you want to move around. So you have to get rid of it and you hit the clear button or you can come back to the icon on the left-hand side. And clear it and now you can start new. But for this, -- let's go back to the beginning, to where we were. And here's how you can refine your search for languages spoken at home to a particular geography. So we have a list of geography that each of these Chevron's will open up and give you additional selections. So we are going to go -- let's just go to Illinois. So I am going to go to state, Illinois and these are check boxes that once you check them, you can proceed. You cannot proceed, that is the end of your search. So there are other, for instance, tracks and some others that will give you additional choices. Other options that you can go and select from. So when you select, it is going to ask, what state is this track in. I'm going to say Illinois. And now it is going to bring up other counties in Illinois and you also have the option of selecting all the tracks within Illinois. Now that is available for a lot of different selections. Let me just say that when you do that, it is going to create a very large file. It may not view for you on the right-hand side. Which means it is too large to display. So that is when you're going to have to download it. And if it is that large, you're going to have to download it via is a vile. And I will show you in a moment -- let's do it now. All tracks within Illinois. It is giving you a locator map on that, on the right-hand side and we are going to minimize that and say, language spoken at home. Let's see what happens. Here you have Illinois, let's see, let's do the tracks. No, it did not give me the tracks. And this is why, when you come up to this middle portion it is giving you the table I.D. in the title, giving the source, but here it is only bringing up 2021, the one year estimate. Of course all the checks and in Illinois are not 65,000 and over so I have to come in and say, I want the five-year estimate. This is what you're going to get. The table is too large. Then you have download the table, but then you have this little link on the right-hand side that says, open the table. Let's see. Yeah, it is a large file. Whenever you get this, it is an indication that it is huge. So when that happens, these little -- along the top to the right of the title, the table title, you have some additional selections. These editable ribbons. So you can click on the&, And this is where you are going to, once it finishes, this may take a little bit. That this is where you are going to have -- okay, I'm going to exit the page. It is just way too big. On the side of -- let's do the download the table. What is nice about downloading via CSV and/or zip file, especially CFE, is when you download, you have the ability to select vintages and/or data sets. So you have one here and five-year. And anyone that is not grayed out, you can check off and it will download for you. In one big fire. So when you download to CSV, -- it is preparing the file. It is that big, it is taking so much time. So let me just close it out. I'm going to do a smaller geography so that you can see the download feature because this one is just taking way too much time. It is Illinois, I have 1601 which gives you data on the languages spoken in Illinois. And you've got Spanish, other Indo-European and Asian-Pacific Islander -- let me close that off. And additional information on those. And you have all of this going across, it will give you percentages and estimates. I'm speaking languages very well so it is like a profession see table. So we want to download it to CSV, right appear is your link. There is my table. I open it up. And here, you have the CSV format. This will move around and it is the data. This version you can download into, or upload into any kind of software program that you might be using like RSS, you can use these. Now the other thing that you can do -- I

don't want to save it -- if you have GIS software and want to load this with all the geography, I definitely recommend using the zip file because the zip file is going to give you your GL I.D.. And this is what you are going to need in order to upload the data into your software. So we have it here, let me just say, show me the contents. And I'm going to go to the data part. And here we have, this is the key item. The geo I.D. You have the data going across and it's got all the labels, all the I.D., so on and so forth. Now the difference between CSV and -- I want to say that the file in XL is that when you do XL download, -- over here, you are going to get a document such as this, but most people in full-screen don't necessarily see the tag down here so they come up and it's like a lot of gobbledygook but not getting the data. Your download is not working. But you come over to the tab, and open that up where you have your table. All of the data, as you view it. On-screen, will be in the Excel spreadsheet . So there are things you can do to edit it. If you're okay with a margin of error, which is a measure of uncertainty in terms of how confident we are with this number and basically telling you that true numbers in the population five and over for Illinois lies between this number and plus or - 580. If you are okay with that, we publish it with a 90% confidence that we are 90% sure these numbers are correct and you can suppress that column to make it a little tidier. You can bring this in, flip these little lists on your column and now you've got a concise spreadsheet. And there are the Chevron scum you definitely can manipulate them. And this will translate into your spreadsheet. So if you're not interested, you just want one block, you can do it. You can also do the right-click, highlight, right click, copy with headers or export the table this way. The different options that you can do with the table. And then languages spoken at home. Now there is another day's usually when languages spoken at home, you've got these categories, but you may be wondering, I want to really know what languages. Specific languages. And there are ways to have it, to look at 1601, 1602 will get you there and there's also a base table. This one right here, B 1601 that if you open it up, it is going to give you a little more detail. Here you have English, Spanish, French, Haitian, Italian, Portuguese, so on and so forth. A lot of different languages that we have captured, there. If you have a table that you like, and you constantly use it, take that number somewhere, the next time you come into the tool, you can come up to the search engine and type in B 1601 and it will bring you to the default, U.S. national numbers but then all you need to do is confirm it to geography and tell it specifically where you want. You can also, once you have it here, over on the editable items, or tools -- there is share button that when you click it, you can copy the URL, that string and embed it somewhere or put it into a document or an email and that way you don't have to remember so many steps to get to that table. It will be there, literally accessible for you. So, what else can you do with this tool? While you can also map variables. For instance right now, we are looking at languages spoken at home and I've got five or over. Say I want specifically to see, is that a five-year. Specifically, the -- is not giving it to me. Hold on. It is not letting me do this. Am sorry. That you can map these out by using the map icon. And it will drop for you. You got your legend and this is a single state, so there's not a lot of comparisons but if you do other ones, you will be able to do your comparisons with -- on my god, it is still downloading. Let me close it out. You can definitely select your variable. Right now it defaults to the total. Say okay, I want to look at those that speak Portuguese. So now if I had Iowa select, let me do select. And let me do Missouri. This is all, yes I click and the table is being repopulated, so it will be 1601 for Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Since I was looking at my variable for those that speak Portuguese, here is the legend, giving me the breakout. Illinois has more Portuguese speakers than the other two states. And then you can definitely look at, go back to the table and look at those particular numbers. As they go across. And there is Missouri and there is Iowa. And so a lot of different things that you can do with the tool itself, the table. I think there was a question that had come in, that someone wanted to see languages spoken in a city. We can do that in a state that they also wanted to look at in a school system. That, you can do -- take out the geographies that we were looking at by going to filters and axing out the geographies we had listed. I don't see schools or anything related to schools I'm going to click on all geographies and we have additional selections. Before I go to the schools, let me explain one thing about five digit ZIP Codes.

Notice on the left-hand side, we have a line, ZIP Code tabulation area. Then under all geographies, we have five digit ZIP Codes. This is another pitfall or assumption that people make when they come in looking for ZIP Code data. There are two differences, these are very different geographies we are talking about. Most people associate a five digit ZIP Code because that is their mailing postal code. But with census.gov, I should say in the census, five digit ZIP Code will bring back economic data. No demographic whatsoever. That is the ZIP Code tabulation area. It is not collection date -- collection geography. If you want demographics for a particular ZIP Code, then you would have to select it from the ZIP Code tabulation area topic. If you want economic data, business data, you would select this fight -- five digit ZIP Code. Let's keep going down and now here you have school districts. You got elementary, secondary or unified. I'm going to select unified. I'm going to go back to Illinois. And let's see, I'm going to do my district. I'm going to close this little panel so I have a better view of the table. Here is my S 1601 which gives an indication of those that are Spanish-speaking, Indo-European, so on and so forth but I want to look at that -- I want to see if Portuguese shows up. So I have to scroll down and look for B 16 001 and this will give an indication of how many days we got 32 results. You can do 10 views, 25 or 50 and let do 25. Still not being B 16 001. Let me go on another one. There it is. Toward the end some going to click on it. And now, we have are the Lake Zurich community, the district, we have Portuguese. So this is kind of the way you manipulate the tool. You tell it what to do, what you are looking for, and it will bring back results. Understanding which one, which table is best, and days we have a lot of tables, what is it you are looking for, how much data you want to look at, and then narrowing down your selection based on what you give it. Right now we have got 32 results but you can further filter that, if you get like 1600. You can introduce a year. And reduce that to 30. Not so much where you got a large list, this helps refine and limit the number of tables that you need to look for her. What I would recommend is start your searches simply. Use one or two key items to look at and then when you build up your confidence or your comfort level with the tool, the weight moves, how dates this is an important area to explore, the topics. And this is where people often times get a little frustrated. But the hierarchy of the topics is something that one has to get comfortable with. And kind of know what is in there, because housing come you go in and like, okay you've got housing, physical characteristics, what does that mean? Computer and Internet use or physical characteristics meaning the number of rooms in the house and so on and so forth. You want to look at, under housing, income and poverty. What is income and poverty. Let's look at poverty, official poverty measure and so on. Like I said, you have to familiarize yourself with what is in each of these topics. And then just know that when you check off the box, you cannot go any further. However if you explore those chevrons, you can get additional selections. And let me say that right now it is restricting how much it is bringing back on the topics because I have given it indicators already and so it is fleshing out what is not relevant. So important thing to learn what this is all about. We've got 10 minutes and I'm going to go real quick on quick sacks. Act II, the splash page. Here we go. And click on quick facts and like I said, this is really simple tool to use. You are interested in looking at anything, you look and look at state, county, city, town or places and or ZIP Codes. Now I know that there are some ZIP Codes out there that are 5000 and more, -- residing in the city of New York. If you are not sure if your ZIP Code has that population threshold, you're going to have to go to data.census.gov to get the profiles. But right off the bat, this tool gives a complete profile of your geography and what is nice about this tool, is that you can compare six at one time. It defaults to the U.S. but say that I want to do Illinois. And Iowa. In Missouri and Florida. And I'm going to take out the U.S. because I don't want it and I've got those and then let's say California. You got to ask geographies and this will work or counties and states and counties and places. You can look at them and right off the bat, most current information on population estimates. Anything that we have published or released, it is updated in this tool. And you have a little comparison from 2020, 2010 to 2020. Then you have your age cohort, race and ethnicity, population, housing characteristics right off the bat, median rent and the age of the places. Keep coming down, you've got computer and Internet, health, economy, transportation and a little bit of business

data for those states. Now it is nice about this, too, is that we are looking at, in the blue ribbon, we are looking at a table format but you can look at it in a map, and a charge or even a dashboard that gives snippet of these three. One really good thing to use in this tool, say you wanted to get a flavor for what is the aging population in each of the states. Don't want housing, don't want business, don't want anything else. I just want to know, what is the population 65 and over in each of the states. You can come up to the top under select the fat, bring it down and under the age and sex cohort, here is your line item. Persons 65 and older. It is going to shoot that right up to the top. We have population before, now you have your line item. And you look at this like, yeah, but it has other the other stuff that is distracting and making it busy. I'm not interested in that, I just want 65 and older. Come over to the ribbon at the top, this is all topics. Wring it down. You want only age and sex and it suppresses everything, gives you your line item and it highlights it in that particular cohort for context. So you want to view this in those formats. Let's go to the dashboard and a map. It is going to ask who you want. Let's go to California. And it is giving you the line item that you selected, because we haven't changed it. And it is ringing up a map of the geography. Here a legend based on the variable that was selected. If you want a chart. I like using the chart for is if you want to weed out all the outliers. I want a state days I only want to state that has -- 65 Andover. This is a good indicator of where to look and identify those without running reports all over the place. So this can help you make a list of those geographies, those places that have 20% or over 65 Andover. That is what I like using this chart for. If you're not interested in anything else other than your selections, you can come up. To this little -- on the last hand side it says show selected locations. Click that box and there is your analysis on the selected geographies. Now the dashboard is kind of fun. Let's look at Florida this time. Again, it's that my line item but this view is giving me snippets of all three. I've got a map locator, that my list and I've got my church. And it has retained the item, which you can change it by coming here and selecting another variable and go from there. If you want to download it or come up over to the end in the blue editable -- the little widget at the end will allow you to play to -- to print it. And you can mail it. And you can print it out right there and it will give you all of the tables that we were looking at. So it is three minutes. Joe, do we have any questions?

Yes, thank you. Let me check that. We got a couple of minutes here. Do I understand correctly that the five-year estimates and and ACS are rolling as and its meaning in five-year as it comes out every year covering the last five years?

It is. Yeah, that is one of the good questions. I am glad that was asked because we do have the one-year and five-year that come out annually. However, if you are planning on comparing, do not compare --. 2022, -- [ inaudible ] from 2022 -- the data is that you would be looking at.

Thank you. The table numbers remain consistent over time, so if I identify a useful table today, five years from now can I search for a table number and CMR current data?

Most of the tables are stable. However there are times when some tables are merged. Other tables are completely eliminated and new tables are introduced. And how you can find that out is by coming up here -- surveys and programs, over to the ACS. Then here, you will find -- this is very touchy. You will find the area where it has all of these under the guidance for data users. And where is the other days I think it was under -- let's look at data. It will give you the information on what is being released and also the easiest way though, if you forget that -- if you lose yourself, we tweak things. This is the way it is looking today, three months down the line it may not look like this. You might get frustrated and try to remember your path. The easiest way to find out what is being deleted or included or merged, is to sit in on the webinar that we have right before the date of release. And this will definitely give insight into the

findings, any changes, any updates and so on and so forth. And that is easy. You can subscribe right on census.gov or in the particular data table -- the survey page that you are interested in.

Thank you very much. I am very sorry I have to closeout. It is 3:00. Fantastic webinar. I really appreciate it. The satisfaction survey, if you could fill that out, that is for the Census Bureau and it will help them very much. Thank you, audience., Back to the Academy next week. We got a great webinar with more to come. And our fall virtual conference, please sign up for that. Thanks again and have a great rest of the day, everyone.

Thank you, goodbye. [Event Concluded]