

Geolytics Census Disks

What are they?

The Geolytic Census Products repackage Census data in a way that makes it easy to extract the data. It also prepares the data for thematic maps, obviating the need for doing a separate data extraction from the Census and then using a GIS program such as ARCView to produce maps. An important feature of Geolytics is that it alone makes data available in electronic form from the 1970 and 1980 Censuses. American Factfinder only covers 2000 and 1990. Geolytics coverage of 1990 is more powerful in some ways: for one thing you can create custom tables, a feature not available from American FactFinder for 1990.

The “Neighborhood Change Database” CD (see below) are particularly useful. They have data from 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 down to the tract level, so it’s easy to construct tables comparing values over time for a particular geography.

The Geolytics Census products come with built-in data viewing and exporting capabilities as well as thematically shaded, color-mapping capabilities. You can extract data as dbf, ASCII, shape files and use them as input files for other programs e.g. statistical (SAS, SPSS), database (Access, Oracle), spreadsheet (Excel, 1-2-3), and mapping (Arc View, MapInfo). You can export any of the geographic boundaries into the mapping packages.

The Geolytics interface enables users to search for and select the data they're interested in. They can custom tailor reports down to the block group level (and for products that specifically include them, the block level). Users can create and map their own computed fields from the data (for example: percentages, or sums of particular groups).

One weakness of the Geolytics products is the limited number of geographies available in many of the sets (as opposed to American FactFinder). No Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Congressional Districts, Tribal Areas, Urbanized Areas, etc., except in some special cases. The 2000 disks do have Zip Code areas which are very useful to marketers. The redistricting data (very basic population data used to reapportion congressional districts) is available for more geographies, but only for summary reports.

Where are they?

The disks are housed in the ETC in call number order. All are in the HA 201s except the NCDBs which are in the HA181s. The area of the shelf is labeled “Geolytics.” The guides, very slender pamphlet-bound volumes, are on the guide shelf, also in call number order.

The disks will run on ETC 2 and 6. The start-up shortcuts are in the “ETC Databases” folder on the desktops of both computers. We’ll try to get them on the web menu ASAP. They will install fairly easily on other computers if the need arises, but the serial number is required for installation and the CD-ROM must remain in the drive. The serial number is in the guide or in the holdings record for the item in Voyager. See geolytics edex entry.

Using the Products

The organization of the data varies slightly from census to census and different years offer different search options. Consult the guides or online help. The disks can also be taken downstairs to the Map Collection. For students needing to download and save large quantities of data, this is really the only option, since only the map computers have CD-burners. And remember, if she’s available Susan Greaves will come up and consult in the ETC.

There are several different products for the 2000 Census and others for historical censuses. The “Neighborhood Change Data Base” (NCDB) combines both.

Census 2000 Products

Title: *CensusCD 2000. Long form SF3*

Call Number: Electronic Text Center: Disk HA201 2000 .C4672x 2004

Notes: 4 CD-ROMs + 1 User Guide

Abstract: The Census 2000 Long Form is the most complete source of detailed information about the people, housing, and economy of the United States. The CensusCD/DVD 2000 Long Form offers the entire US Census Bureau's SF3 data set in an integrated data and software package.

This data set contains variables such as income, housing, employment, language spoken, ancestry, education, poverty, rent, mortgage, commute to work, etc. There are 5,500 variables at the Block Group level and over 10,000 more variables at the larger geographies such as tract, zip code, county and state level. The data set includes all of the available cross-tabulated variables (income by age, employment by race) released by the US Census Bureau.

This is the product to use for detailed social and economic data for the 2000 census. Note there are four disks.

Title: *CensusCD 2000 : Short Form Blocks*

Year: 2002

Call Number: Electronic Text Center: Disk HA201 2000 .C457 2002

Notes: 4 CD-ROMs + 1 user guide

Abstract: *CensusCD 2000/Short Form Blocks* contains all Short Form data on the block level, thus providing very detailed information about the population of the United States. It has demographic information at the block level for each of the 8+ Million blocks from the most recent US 2000 Census.

The variables include race (and Hispanic designation), age of head of household, age of children, presence of older relatives, composition of the family, family size, rent vs. own, etc.

You can select various levels of geography: Nation, Region, Division, State, County, and Tract to view the data. The data will be presented at the Block level.

Use this product only if you need *block level* data for the 2000 Census. And remember this is for the short form (SF1) basic data only. See SF3 for detailed social and economic data. The short form disk below gives more cross tabulations of the basic Short Form data but at the tract level.

Title: *CensusCD 2000. Blocks*

Year: 2001

Call Number: Electronic Text Center: Disk HA201 2000 .C453 2001

Label: Olin Library Reference (Non Circulating)

Notes: 1 CD-ROM + 1 user guide

Title: *CensusCD 2000 : Short Form*

Year: 2001

Call Number: Electronic Text Center: Disk HA201 2000 .C456 2001

Notes: 1 CD-ROM + 1 user guide

Abstract: The data on *CensusCD 2000/Short Form* provides details about the population of the United States. It has demographic information down to the neighborhood level (block groups) from the most recent US 2000 Census.

The variables include race (and Hispanic designation), age of head of household, age of children, presence of older relatives, composition of the family, family size, rent vs. own, etc.

The *CensusCD/2000 Short Form* has data at 8 levels of geography: State, County, Tract, Block Group, MCD/CCD, Place, Congressional divisions and Zip (ZCTA).

This is the short form 100% count data. It won't have detailed social and economic data.

Title: *CensusCD 2000. Redistricting*

Year: 2001

Call Number: Electronic Text Center Disk HA201 2000 .C455 2001

Notes: 1 CD-ROM+ 1 user guide

Abstract: *CensusCD 2000 / Redistricting* includes all the 2000 Redistricting data, with 2000 Census data available at 19 levels of geography, from Block Group up to National.

Census CD 2000 / Redistricting also includes, for comparison purposes, 1990 Redistricting data normalized to 2000 geographies.

Use this product only if you specifically need *redistricting* data. The comparison feature is useful.

Historical Census Products:

Title: *CensusCD 1970*

Call Number: Electronic Text Center Disk HA201 1970 .C462 2002

Notes: 1 CD-ROM + 1 User Guide

Abstract: CensusCD 1970 is the first product to allow access to the results of the 1970 US Census down to the Census tract. Over 8,500 demographics and geographic identifiers exist for every geographic area. The counts are divided into 3 groups: geographic identifiers, population counts, and housing counts. In addition, a full set of 1970 tract maps, along with mapping software, has also been included.

This product combined short and long form data. The tract maps are for 1970, as opposed to the NCDB which normalizes the tracts to their 2000 boundaries. Note no blocks or block groups.

Title: *CensusCD 1980*

Call Number Electronic Text Center: Disk HA201 1980 .C462

Notes: 1 CD-ROM+ 1 User Guide

Abstract: Presents the detailed demographic data from the 1980 US Census in an easy to use format. GeoLytics has created CensusCD 1980, a single CD-ROM with detailed 1980 population statistics, housing data, and geographic boundaries combined with software for creating reports and displaying data as thematic maps.

Complete 1980 Census data, both the 100% count (STF-1) and long form (STF-3) data, down to the block group level (not blocks!). CensusCD 1980 gives you over 1,500 demographic variables for every Block Group, Tract, Place, Minor Civil Division (MCD), County, State, Division, and Region as well as for the Nation as a whole. Covers 1980 population and housing attributes with data on age, race, ancestry, gender, poverty, income, education, commuting, employment, rent, home ownership, etc.. Users can select one or several data items in customized reports or choose pre-formatted single topic reports with pre-selected data fields. All data can be exported.

Note that the data is only down to the block group level. This is the product to use for any 1980 Census data.

Title: *CensusCD+maps*

Call Number: Electronic Text Center: Disk HA201 1990 .C46 1998

Notes: 1 CD-ROM + 1 User Guide + 1 disk (3 1/2 in.)

Abstract: Despite the generic title this is the 1990 Census CD-ROM

Combined Historical and 2000 Census

Title: *CensusCD neighborhood change database (NCDB) : 1970-2000 tract data : selected variables for US Census tracts for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and mapping too*

Call Number: Electronic Text Center: Disk HA181 .C46 2002

Notes: 1 CD-ROM + 1 User Guide

Abstract: CensusCD Neighborhood Change Database (NCDB) gives you access to US Census data from 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 at the census tract level. It is the only source of census data with variables and tract boundaries that are consistently defined to the 2000 Census tract boundaries.

What are the differences between the Neighborhood Change Database product and the individual census products for 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000?

The Neighborhood Change Database has one very important advantage: normalized data. If you want to do time series analysis (looking at the changes of a given location across time periods) then the Neighborhood Change Database is the ideal product. Because the NCDB data is normalized, you can measure just the change in population without having to control for changes in boundary definitions. The year specific boundaries are also included.

The Neighborhood Change Database is not as exhaustive as the full census because the data are only expressed at the tract level and include a subset of the complete variable list for each decade. While the complete set of census variables is not included, the Neighborhood Change Database does have an extensive subset - about 1,000 variables for each decade. Furthermore, these variables have been defined to make it very easy to compare data across censuses.