

Exercises for Local Area Statistics

3/10/2004

Try to find the amount of federal funds the counties in Arkansas received in 2001.

There are several approaches to this depending on what you know. If you don't have a clue you need to use some sort of index. Try a few to see what give the best or most easily found results. Or you can use some compendium that gives county level data, maybe even a statistical yearbook for Arkansas. Or you may just know the source that has this information. It's a good one to know.

While we're there, can you find the statistical yearbook for Arkansas?

You can try for an online version, possibly using Google, but there are several lists in the sources we covered. When you find the yearbook (and it may not be online) check to see if has the data required to answer the question above.

Lets try to find some information in the Census. We want to find the occupancy status of housing units in the area bounded by Court St. Geneva St. Green St. and Plain St in 2000.

This is a little tricky. You'll need a reference map to identify the blocks and then find the data for the blocks.

On a related note try to find the percent of housing units occupied for all the blocks in Tract 8 (Tompkins County) in 2000 and draw a thematic map to display that data.

This is tricky too. Be careful to choose the right geographic level.

This next one uses two of my favorite features "geo within geo," and "custom table:"

How many "Architects; surveyors; cartographers; and engineers" are there in the county subdivisions of New York State. County subdivisions would be towns, places, villages, etc. in 2000?

So you need to decide which data set to use, then construct the geographical argument, find the table and isolate the variables you want.

Can you get the same data for 1990?

Switching gears a little lets look for some economic data.

How many establishments are there in Tompkins County which manufacture Computers and Electronic equipment?

How many visits were there to academic libraries in NY State in 1998 (last survey results available).

Definitely hard to locate. Look carefully at the "Federal States and Local Governments" page. Files will require some manipulation after downloading.

REIS is now online-for better or for worse. **See if you can find the value of Food Stamps distributed in Tompkins County in 2001.** You may find the CD-ROM easier to use.

How many female farmers and ranchers were there in Tompkins County in 2000?

Can you find a thematic map showing cases and deaths by HIV by county? How about the actual data?

Compare regular gasoline and fuel oil prices in 2002 for California and New York state. Is there similar data to compare NY counties?

How many robberies were there in Tompkins county in 1995? Can you find any more recent data?