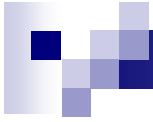




Census Basics

March 22, 2011

Jerry Deichert
UNO Center for Public Affairs Research



Data Basics

- Geography
- Subject items
- Time period
- Data source



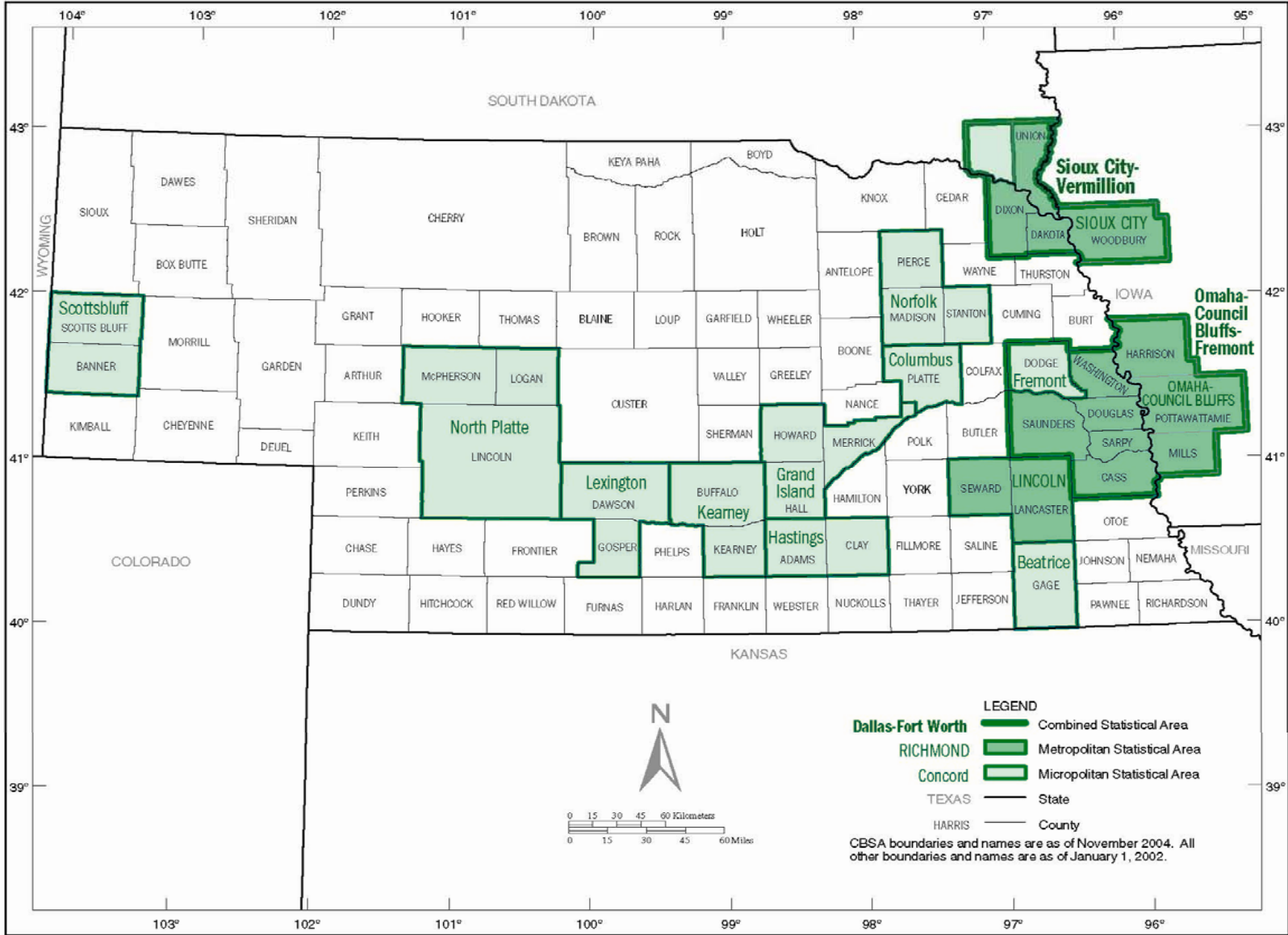
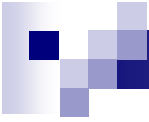
Census Bureau

- Part of the Department of Commerce.
- Serves as the leading source of quality information on the nation's people and economy.
- Decennial Census
- American Community Survey
- Other surveys/censuses
 - Current Population Survey
 - Census of Governments
 - Economic Censuses
 - County Business Patterns
- Annual population estimates



Geography

- Legal/Administrative
 - Nation, State, County, Place, Township,
 - School District, Legislative District (no estimates)
- Statistical
 - Large area
 - Metropolitan/Micropolitan Area
 - Small area
 - Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA), Zip Code, Census Tract, Voting District, Block Group, Block





2003 Metropolitan Area Definitions

- Lincoln NE

- Lancaster and *Seward*

- Sioux City IA-NE

- Woodbury, IA; Dakota and *Dixon*, NE; *Union*, SD

- Omaha NE-IA

- Douglas, Sarpy, Washington, Cass, and *Saunders*, NE; Pottawattamie, *Harrison*, and *Mills*, IA



2003 Micropolitan Area Definitions

- Beatrice NE--Gage
- Columbus NE--Platte
- Fremont NE--Dodge
- Grand Island NE--Hall, Howard, Merrick
- Hastings NE--Adams, Clay
- Kearney NE--Buffalo, Kearney
- Lexington NE--Dawson, Gosper
- Norfolk NE--Madison, Pierce, Stanton
- North Platte NE--Lincoln, Logan, McPherson
- Scottsbluff NE--Banner, Scotts Bluff

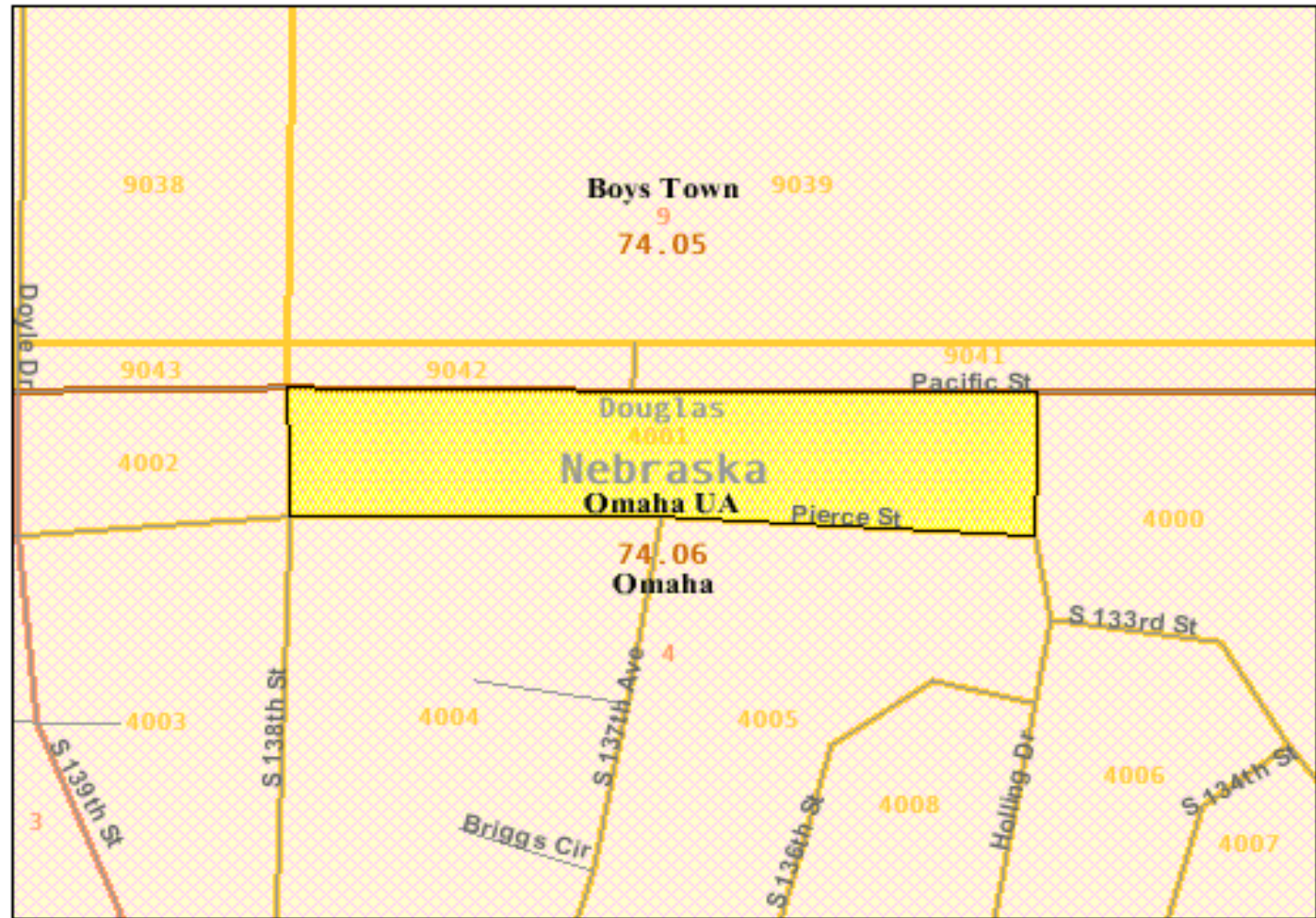
Block 4001, Block Group 4, Census Tract 74.06, Douglas County, Nebraska

Boundaries

- State
- '00 County
- '00 Census Tract
- '00 Block Group
- '00 Block
- '00 Place
- '00 Urban Area
- '00 Urban Area

Features

- Major Road
- Street
- Stream/Waterbody
- Stream/Waterbody



0.4 mile across

Close

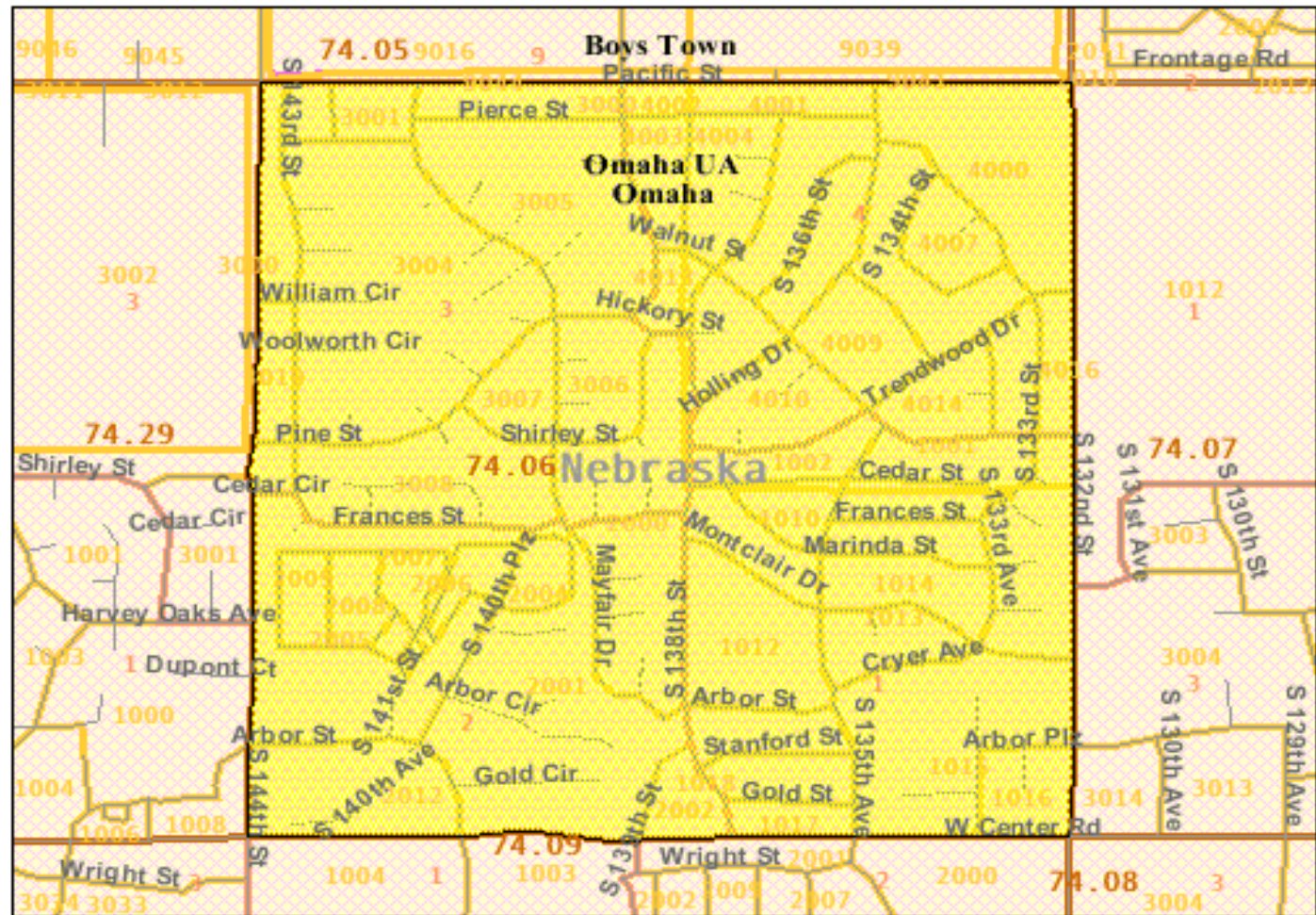
Census Tract 74.06, Douglas County, Nebraska

Boundaries

- State
- '00 County
- '00 Census Tract
- '00 Block Group
- '00 Block
- '00 Place
- '00 Urban Area
- '00 Urban Area


Features

- Major Road
- Street
- Stream/Waterbody
- Stream/Waterbody



1.6 miles across

Close



Decennial Census and American Community Survey

- Check ACS and 2010 Census questionnaires to see if data were collected
- Population: age, household relationship, gender, race, Hispanic origin, marital status
- Housing: owner/renter, vacancy, units in structure, rooms, value
- Social Characteristics: place of birth, education, ancestry, language spoken in home, veteran status, disability status
- Economic Characteristics: labor force, place of work, year last worked, occupation, income
- Depth of data you can collect may be limited by geography to ensure privacy
 - Underlined items are only data available on the 2010 Census



What is the Decennial Census?

- National Population and Housing Count
- Linked to geographic areas
- Conducted every decade
- Involves entire population
- Numbers and Selected Characteristics
 - 2010 Census different from previous censuses
 - No sample characteristics



What is the American Community Survey?



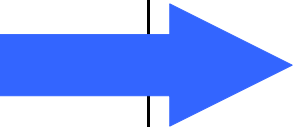
- Nationwide written/mail survey completed by the U.S. Census Bureau
 - Sent to a sample of households, not all households
- Similar to the decennial (10 year) census but is completed every year
 - More current information: annual data rather than 10 year intervals between data releases
 - Replaces “long form” of decennial census; 2010 Census primarily a population count



Nebraska ACS Data

- Full implementation in 2005, all counties surveyed.
 - Annual data for areas with 65,000+ people
 - Douglas ,Sarpy, Lancaster Counties; Lincoln, Omaha; etc.
 - 3-year aggregate data for areas with 20,000+ people
 - Cass, Hall, Madison Counties; Bellevue, Grand Island, Norfolk; etc.
 - 5-year aggregate for areas with under 20,000 people
 - 2005-2009 aggregate released mid-December 2010
 - All counties, cities, villages, census tracts, block groups

ACS Data Release Schedule (full implementation in 2005)

Type of Data	Population of Area	Previous Year's Data Released in the Summer of:					
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Annual Estimates	65,000+						
3-year averages	20,000+						
5-year averages	Under 20,000; Census Tracts, Block Groups						



Point Estimates, MOE and Confidence Intervals

- The ACS data provide point estimates for various characteristics. ACS data also include a margin of error (MOE) for finding a lower and upper bound.
 - Why?
 - The ACS is a sample and subject to sampling error.
 - Are the data representative of the entire population?
 - Census 2000 long form also a sample—1 in 6 sampling rate made sampling error small and MOE was not released.
- Adding and subtracting the MOE to/from the point estimate creates a range called a confidence interval.
 - ACS displays the MOE for a 90% confidence interval.



ACS Note

The ACS is not designed to count the population – use other sources for population counts. The ACS provides characteristics of the people living in an area.



Population Estimates Program: Basics

- The population estimates program provides the official head and housing unit counts as well as counts by age, sex, and race in non-census years
- As of July 1 of the specific year
- Staggered releases throughout the year
 - Large geographies first, most detailed data last
- Most current releases always supersede prior
 - Can create confusion for why one 7-1-06 estimate will differ from another—cite the source and release date
- Estimates differ from projections
 - Estimates are the newest look at our current population
 - Projections predict the population structure in the future



Population Estimates Program: Methodology in Brief

- Start with the Census 2000 headcount (4-1-00)
- Adjust for headcount revisions, boundary changes (annexations) so that everything is consistent over time
 - This is called the Estimates Base (refers to 4-1-00)
- Add births, subtract deaths from vital records
- Make estimates of domestic and international migration
 - Partner with IRS to show changes in where people file
 - Limited to filers, doesn't account for people leaving the U.S. real well
 - Use Medicare records to be more precise in 65+ population
- Use various methods for estimating changes in group quarters and military populations (deployment affects)
- Use building permit data and recorded demolitions



Population Estimates Program: Data

- Some data are on FactFinder, more detailed information on the estimates website
 - FactFinder only has most current release; est. site has “vintage” (prior years) estimates
 - FactFinder has commonly used tables, est. site allows “download of entire data set” & has “popular” tables
 - Several separate coded files available – sometimes it’s easiest to just contact me & I’ll compile and email data
- Data vary based on geography
 - Cities/towns only have a total population estimate – nothing by age, sex, race nor any housing unit estimates
- Smaller geography data will exactly sum to larger
 - Counties to state, states to region or nation



Census Bureau Website

<http://www.census.gov/>

Advisory: [Scheduled Downtime](#)

- Redistricting Data
First Look at Local Data
- New on the Site
- Data Tools
- American FactFinder**
- Jobs@Census
- Catalog
- Publications
- Are You in a Survey?
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2010 RESIDENT POPULATION

308,745,538

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- Video
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- Director's Blog
- Census Blog

- People & Households**
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Read our Census Blogs

Data Finders

Population Clocks
U.S. **311,007,269**
World **6,906,585,589**
19:49 UTC (EST+5) Mar 18, 2011

Population Finder*
* Does not currently contain 2010 data
city/ town, county, or zip

or state
Select a state

Find An Area Profile with QuickFacts
Select a state to begin
Select a state

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· [Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales](#)

Economic Indicators
Select an indicator
Select an indicator

U.S. Census Bureau

AMERICAN FactFinder



The NEW American FactFinder is now available!

The transition from the legacy American FactFinder to the NEW American FactFinder will continue through the fall of 2011. Data on the legacy FactFinder will be moved to the NEW FactFinder in the coming months. [Frequently Asked Questions](#) »

The legacy American FactFinder will be discontinued in the fall of 2011.



for data from
Census 2010 (beginning in February 2011)
and **Census 2000**
go to
factfinder2.census.gov

[Learn more](#) about the New American FactFinder

For information about the release of data from the 2010 Census, see the [2010 Census Data Products release schedule](#)



for data from the
American Community Survey,
the **Economic Census,**
and **Population Estimates**
go to
factfinder.census.gov



Contact Us With Questions

- David Drozd
(402) 554-2132
ddrozd@mail.unomaha.edu
- Jerry Deichert
(402) 554-2134
jdeicher@mail.unomaha.edu
- Also view the CPAR website
<http://www.unomaha.edu/~cpar/>