**Using American Fact Finder**

The U.S. American Community Survey data accessed through the American Fact Finder website is our main source for demographic information at various geographies, from the census block to the county, state, and national levels. This is our source for data on:

* Population
* Child population
* Poverty
* Child poverty
* Income
* Ethnicity/race
* SNAP participation
* … and much more

While the U.S. Census Bureau conducts nearly one hundred surveys and census each year (see: <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/what_we_provide.xhtml>). We use the American Community Survey most frequently. Here are some basic suggestions for how to start a search.

1. Open up American Fact Finder: <https://factfinder.census.gov>

2. Click Advanced Search in the center left and “show me all.” Here you can enter in your geography of interest and topic of interest. At the more granular level, you must use 5-year estimates, while 1-year estimates are suitable for larger geographies. The latest data available is for 2014.

3. All tables can be downloaded in various formats.