An Introduction to

# The Census Bureau Language Mapper Application



Social Economic and Housing Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau



# Purposes of the Mapper Application

- Easily-accessible information about location of language needs
- Information on languages used in various parts of the U.S.
- Entry point into detailed language data from the American Community Survey

### **Outline**

- Overview of the American Community Survey
- ACS: Speaking language other than English
- ACS language data and Title VI
- Using the mapper application
- Using the TIGERweb application
- Using American Factfinder to find detailed tables





# An Overview of the American Community Survey



# What is the American Community Survey (ACS)?

### A large, continuous survey that:

- produces characteristics of population and housing (similar to Census 2000 long form)
- produces estimates for small areas and small population groups
- samples approximately 3.54
  million resident addresses per
  year (about 290,000 per
  month)





## **Target Population**

- Resident population of the United States and Puerto Rico living in housing units and group quarters (GQ)
  - Housing units: house, apartment, mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters
  - Group quarters: Place where people live or stay that is normally owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing or services for the residents.
- Current residents at the selected address
  - "Two month" rule
- Year-round data collection (12 months/year)



# Population Thresholds for ACS Estimates

	1-year estimates	3-year estimates	5-year estimates
65,000+ people	X	X	X
20,000+ people		X	X
Less than 20,000 people			X



## Comparing Across Geographies

- Only compare the same type of estimate
  - 1-year estimates to other 1-year estimates
  - 3-year estimates to other 3-year estimates
  - 5-year estimates to other 5-year estimates
- Same time period



## Topics Covered by the ACS (Partial list)

- Sex and Age
- Race and Hispanic Origin
- Ancestry
- Citizenship Status
- Place of Birth
- Year of Entry
- Migration
- Journey to Work Residence
- Journey to Work Workplace
- Relationship and Marital Status
- School Enrollment
- Educational Attainment
- Language Use and English Ability
- Disability

- Income, Earnings and Poverty
- Veterans
- Transfer Programs
- Employment Status
- Industry and Occupation
- Health Insurance
- Computer and Internet Use
- Housing Occupancy and Vacancy
- Owner Costs
- Renter Statistics
- Value of Home
- Vehicles Available

For more information see <a href="https://www.census.gov/acs">www.census.gov/acs</a>



## **American Community Survey:**

# Population Speaking a Language Other than English



# ACS question on language use and English ability

P	a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?							
		Yes No → <i>SKIP to question 15a</i>						
	b. What is this language?							
	For	example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese						
		example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese wwell does this person speak English?						



# Coding of languages

- Write-ins are coded to 3-digit codes
- 381 possible languages
- Over 300 were reported in recent years of ACS
- Most detailed general table shows 39 languages



## 39 Language groups

#### 1. Spanish or Spanish Creole

#### 2. Other Indo-European languages

French (incl. Patois, Cajun)

French Creole Serbo-Croatian

Italian Other Slavic languages

Portuguese or Portuguese

Creole

German

Yiddish

Other West Germanic

languages

Scandinavian languages

Greek

Russian

Polish

Armenian

Persian

Gujarati

Hindi

Urdu

Other Indic languages

Other Indo-European

languages

#### 3. Asian and Pacific Island languages

Chinese

**Japanese** 

Korean

Mon-Khmer, Cambodian

**Hmong** 

Thai

Laotian

Vietnamese

Other Asian languages

Tagalog

Other Pacific Island languages

#### 4. Other Languages

Navajo

Other Native North American languages

Hungarian

**Arabic** 

Hebrew

African languages

Other and unspecified languages



### Fifteen languages used in the mapper application:

Spanish

French

French Creole

Italian

Portuguese

German

Russian

Polish

Persian

Chinese

Japanese

Korean

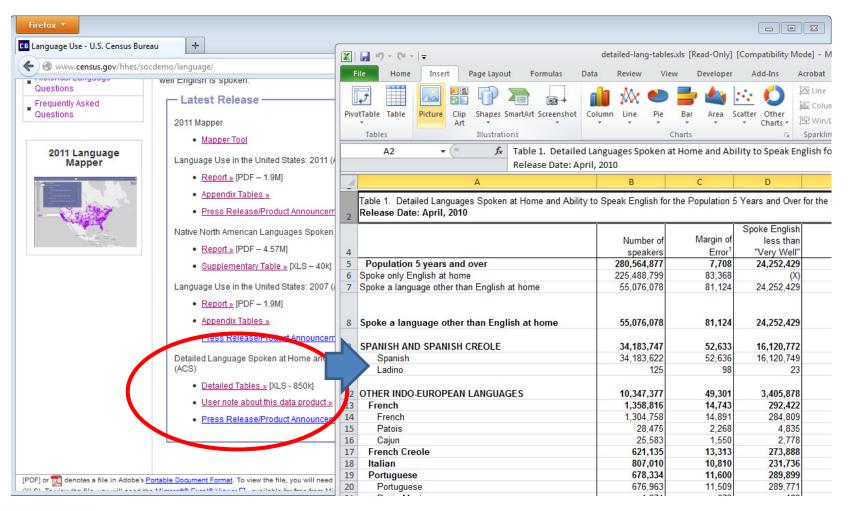
Vietnamese

**Tagalog** 

Arabic



# Tabulation of all coded languages, by state





# Using ACS language data for Title VI

ACS English ability ≠ LEP



## Speak English less than "Very well:"

Individuals who have indicated in a check box that they spoke English "Well," "Not well," or "Not at all"

## Limited English Proficient:

Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English can be limited English proficient, or "LEP." These individuals may be entitled to language assistance with respect to a particular type of service, benefit, or encounter.



## Validity of self-rated English ability

1989 study found lower English speaking ability is associated with:

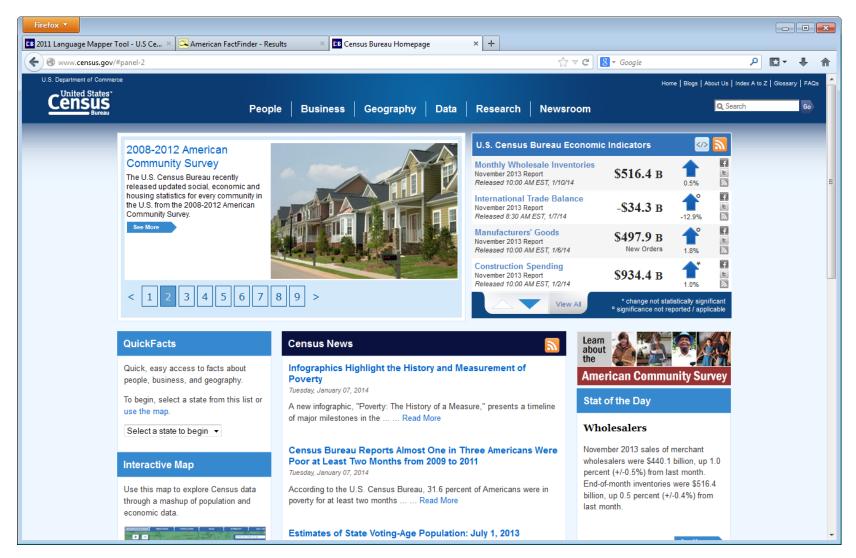
- More use of non-English language relative to English
- Less likely to say they are able to read the newspaper or write a letter in English





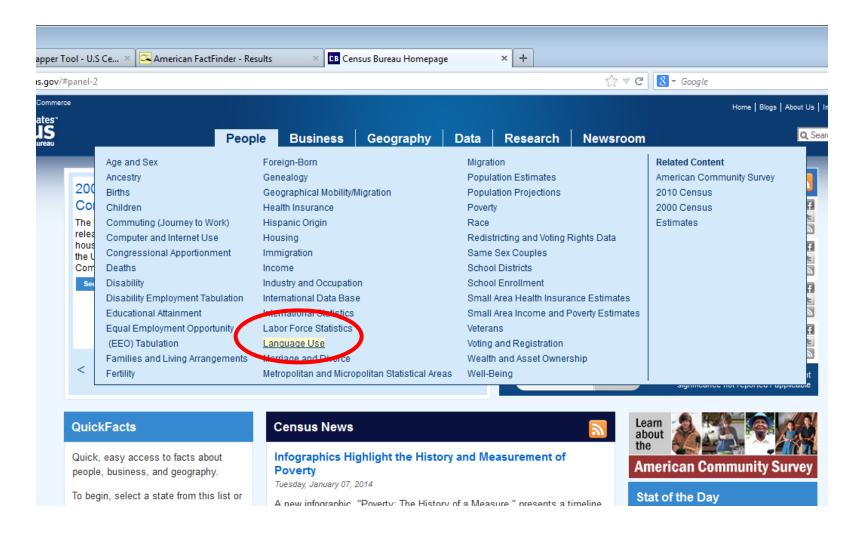


### Census Bureau homepage: www.census.gov



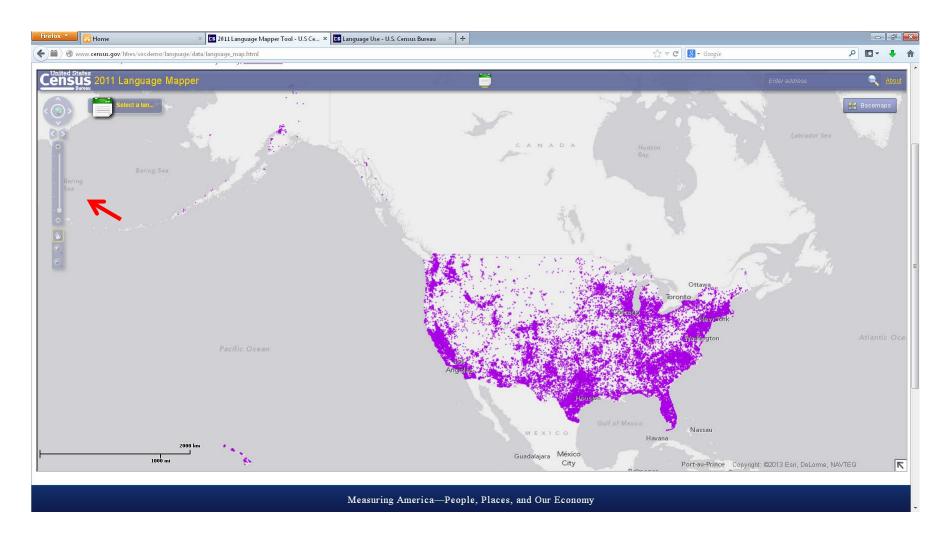


### Hover on People, Click on Language Use



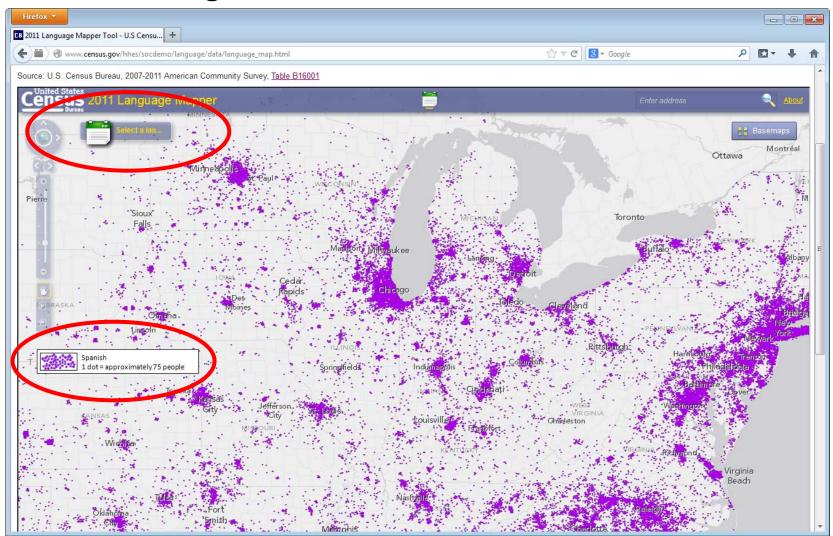


### Dot-density map: covers 50 states, DC, not PR



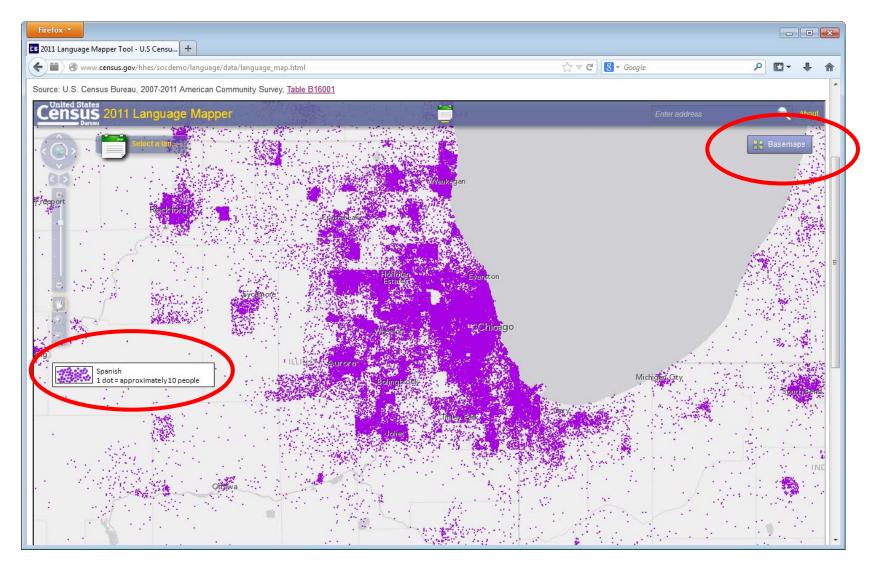


# Dots mark population speaking specific language other than English at home, tied to census tracts



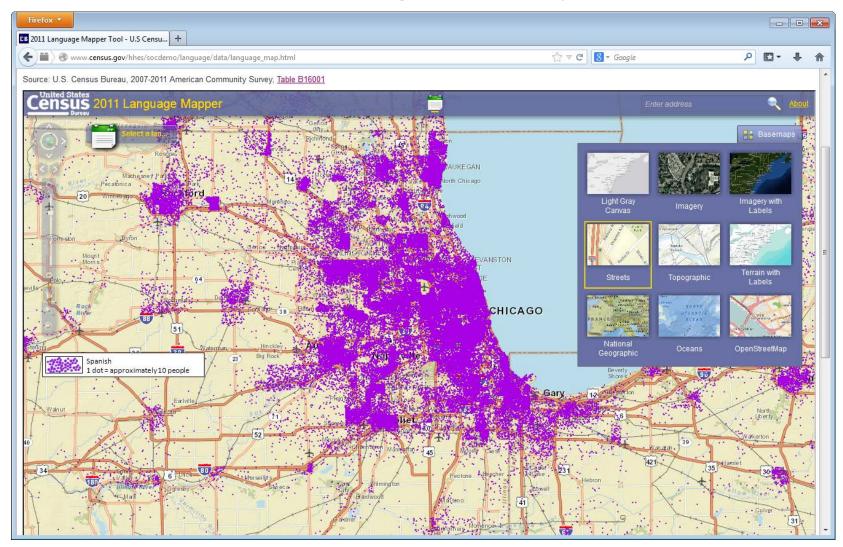


### Zoom in to an area of interest



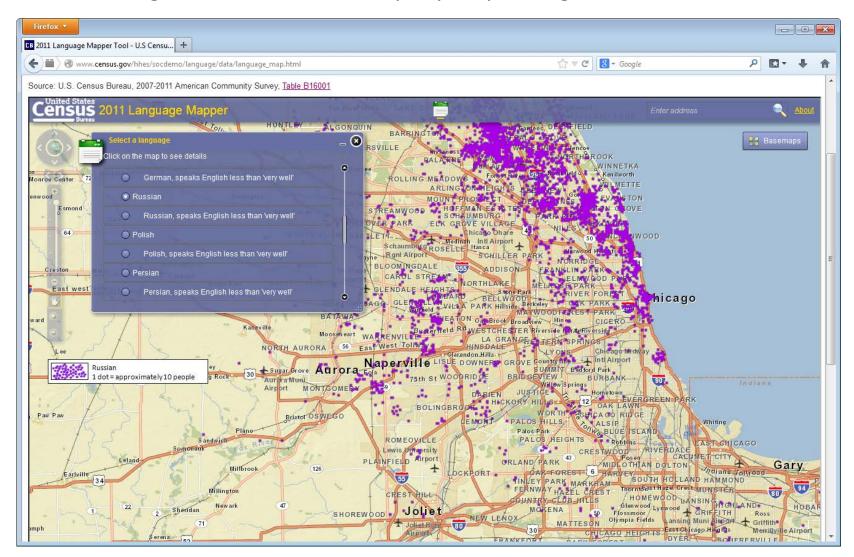


### Add a background map



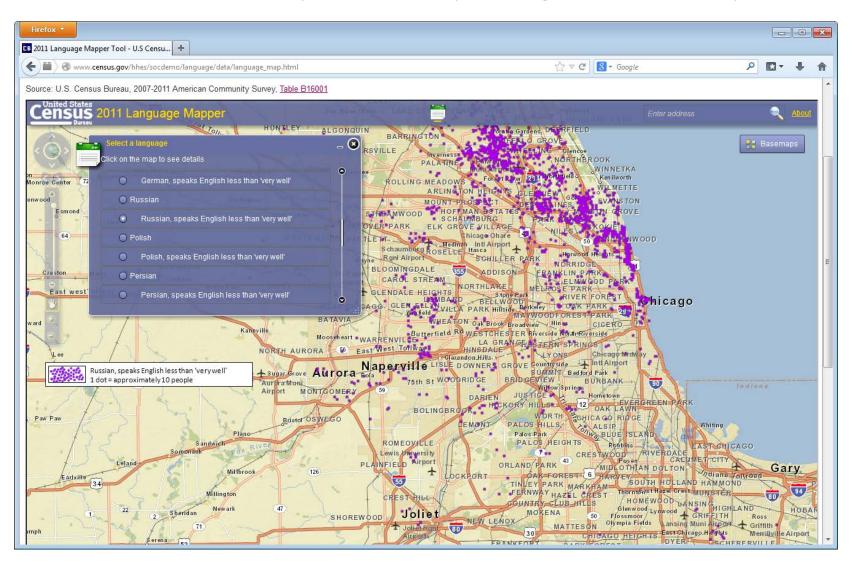


#### Chicago area distribution of people speaking Russian at home



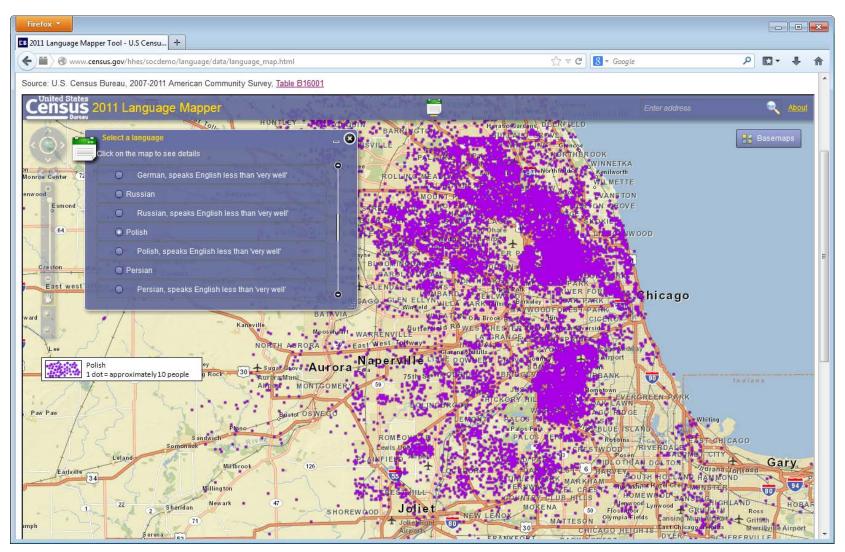


#### Distribution of Russian speakers who speak English less than very well



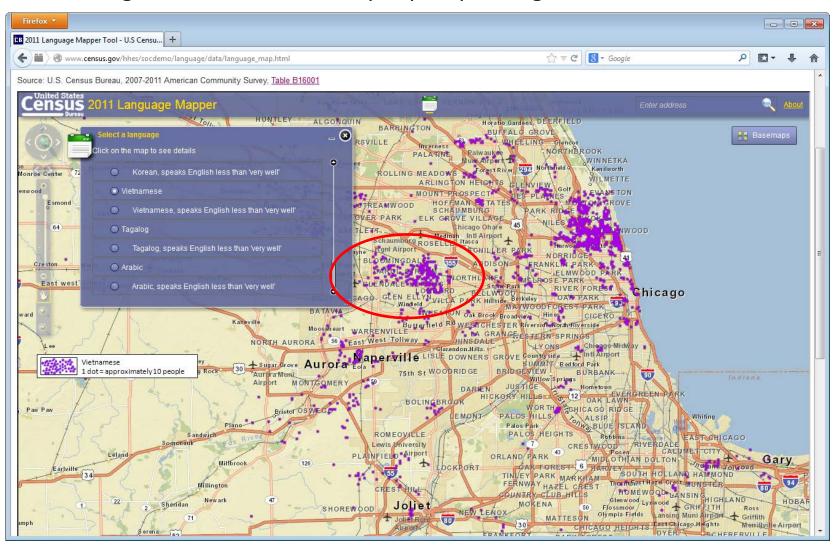


### Chicago area distribution of people speaking Polish at home





#### Chicago area distribution of people speaking Vietnamese at home

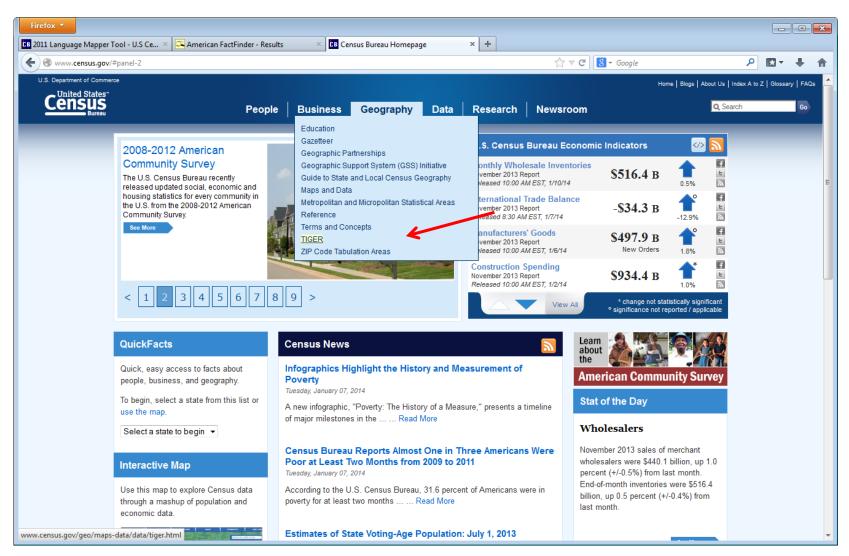




# Using TIGER to locate tracts, places, other geographies

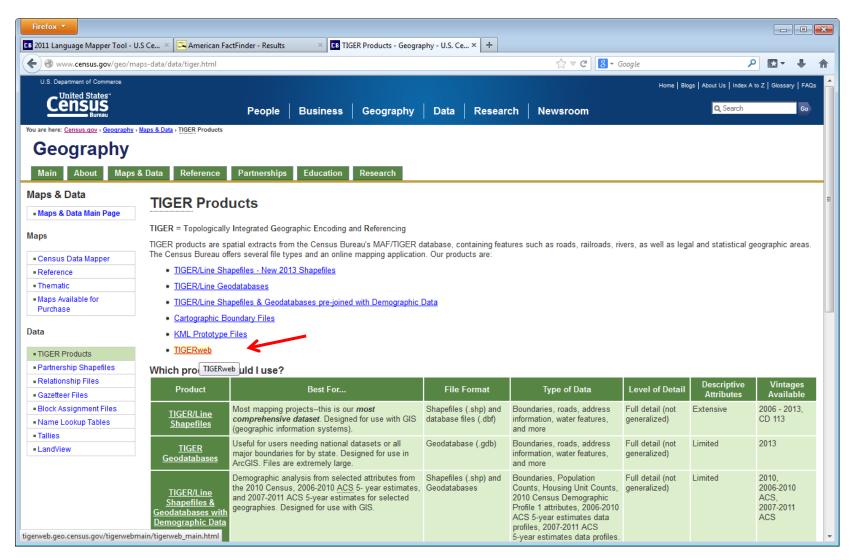


### Start again from the main page - www.census.gov



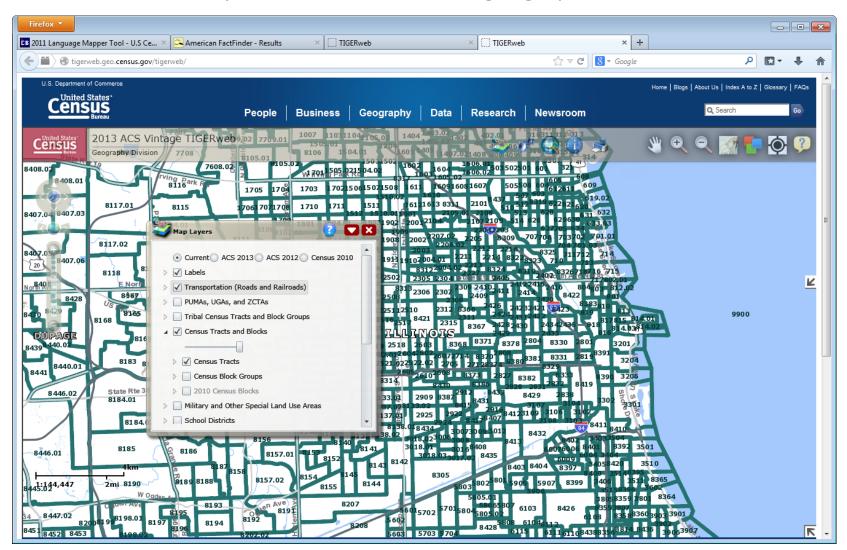


#### Keep clicking on TIGERweb





### Identify census tracts or other geographic units

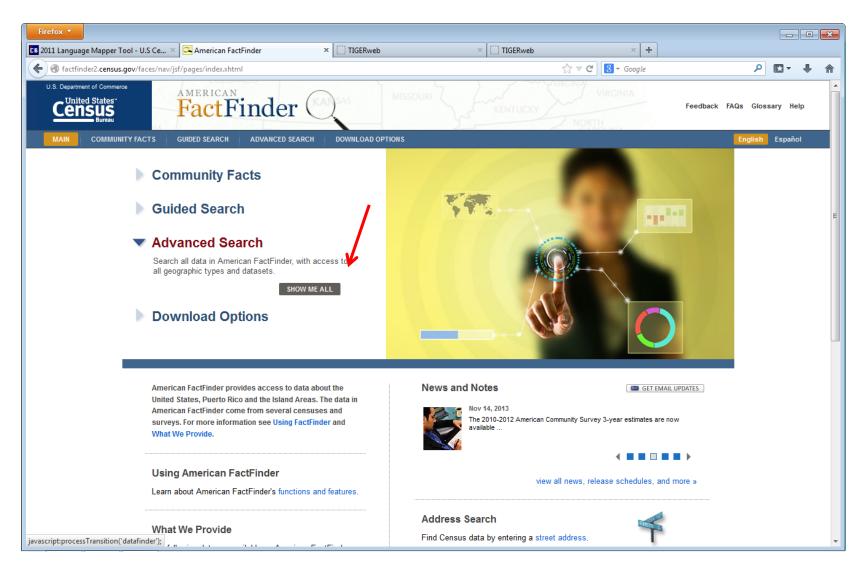




# Using American FactFinder to examine detailed tables

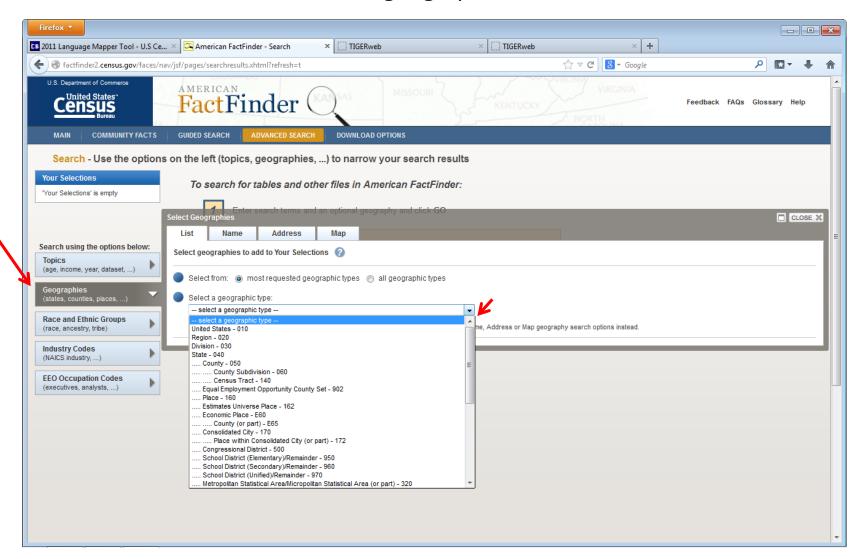


#### Use "advanced search" in American FactFinder



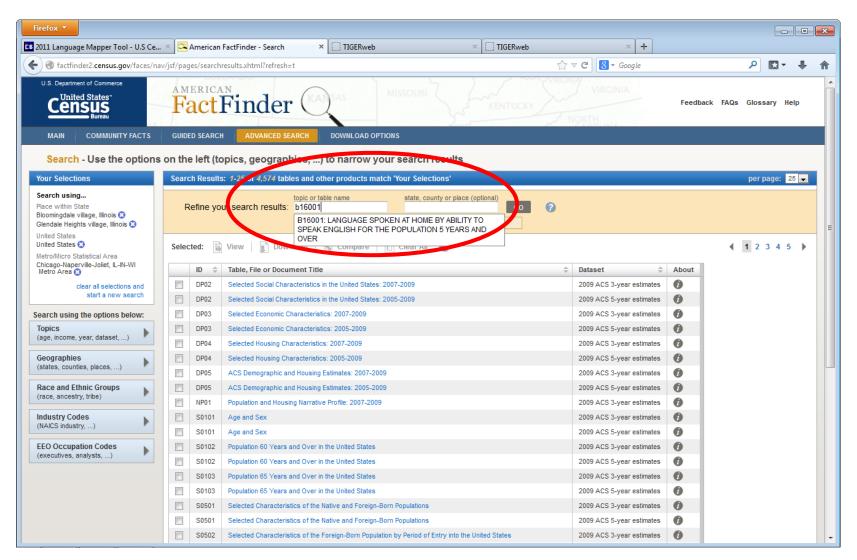


#### Select geographies





#### Select table B16001





# Vietnamese speakers in Bloomingdale, Glendale Heights, Chicago metro and U.S

(a) factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_5YR_B16001&prodType=table								
	United	United States		Bloomingdale village, Illinois		Heights village, Illinois	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI Metro Area (part); Illinois	
opour English Fory h	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Speak English less that well"		+/-4,489	72	+/-69	7	+/-15	17,850	+/-1,40
Chinese:	2,811,518	+/-13,941	217	+/-155	249	+/-166	80,120	+/-2,82
Speak English "very w	/ell" 1,258,018	+/-9,160	15	+/-26	140	+/-102	38,739	+/-1,682
Speak English less that well"	in "very 1,553,500	+/-9,880	202	+/-154	109	+/-86	41,381	+/-1,872
Japanese:	450,225	+/-7,121	73	+/-79	6	+/-10	10,206	+/-1,005
Speak English "very w	/ell" 253,202	+/-4,452	48	+/-51	6	+/-10	4,938	+/-558
Speak English less that well"	in "very 197,023	+/-4,291	25	+/-37	0	+/-24	5,268	+/-746
Korean:	1,125,495	+/-13,588	201	+/-224	108	+/-100	43,059	+/-2,098
Speak English "very w	/ell" 494,954	+/-8,171	33	+/-51	14	+/-23	19,299	+/-1,388
Speak English less that well"	in "very 630,541	+/-7,378	168	+/-176	94	+/-88	23,760	+/-1,401
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian:	209,373	+/-6,165	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	2,853	+/-648
Speak English "very w	/ell" 100,991	+/-4,370	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	1,351	+/-357
Speak English less that well"	in "very 108,382	+/-3,290	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	1,502	+/-433
Hmong:	210,055	+/-5,432	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	228	+/-156
Speak English "very w	rell" 117,869	+/-3,762	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	112	+/-11
Speak English less that well"	in "very 92,186	+/-2,969	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	116	+/-7
Thai:	154,014	+/-3,451	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	5,724	+/-92
Speak English "very w	/ell" 72,337	+/-2,170	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	2,669	+/-45
Speak English less that well"	in "very 81,677	+/-2,324	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	3,055	+/-646
Laotian:	153,378	+/-4,757	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	2,637	+/-74
Speak English "very w	/ell" 76,414	+/-2,859	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	1,071	+/-41
Speak English less that well"	in "very 76,964	+/-2,768	0	+/-21	0	+/-24	1,566	+/-444
Vietnamese:	1,369,682	+/-15,224	0	+/-21	1,455	+/-525	17,281	+/-1,693
Speak English "very w	/ell" 547,145	+/-9,466	0	+/-21	301	+/-166	7,077	+/-899

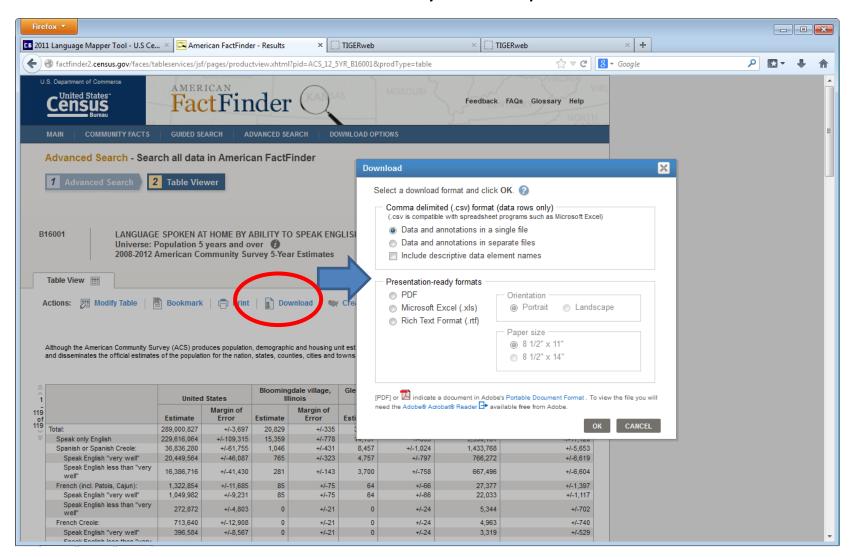


# Vietnamese-speaking population of Glendale Heights, Illinois

- 5 year estimate (2008-2012) is 1,455
- Margin of error is 525
- Can be 90% confident there were between 930 and 1,980 people in Glendale who speak Vietnamese at home.



#### Download tables to your computer





## Data from other sources

- Department of Education school children with language needs
- Other organizations providing compilations of Census Bureau data on language use:
  - Migration Policy Institute
  - Modern Language Association
  - City-Data.com



## Summary

- Language Data Mapper is a quick way to locate language clusters
- Census does not define LEP, but provides the tools to look for language needs
- Census Bureau provides many tools to look directly at the data

## More information

- Census Bureau Website <a href="http://www.census.gov/">http://www.census.gov/</a>
- Department of Justice <a href="http://www.lep.gov/">http://www.lep.gov/</a>
- Data Ferrett <a href="http://dataferrett.census.gov/">http://dataferrett.census.gov/</a>
- Summary files
   http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\_documentation/summary\_file/
- Questions: Census Call Center 1-800-923-8282 (toll free) or visit <a href="https://ask.census.gov/">https://ask.census.gov/</a>
- Education and Social Stratification Branch, U.S. Census Bureau 301-763-2464

