

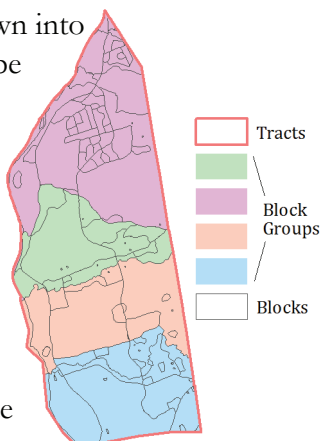


The Nashua Regional Planning Commission uses Census data in a variety of ways across almost all of our ongoing programs and planning projects. With data releases from the 2010 U.S. Census now arriving, beginning in December 2010 and continuing throughout the next two years, NRPC is committed to keeping our member communities up to date on both the process and the data products. These fact sheets will cover those topics while focusing on the data in your area - how the numbers have changed and how they compare to national, state, and county trends. This first sheet covers the basics of Census 2010 and the timeline for data releases

United States[®]
**Census
2010**

THE BASICS

NRPC deals with Census data mostly at 4 levels of geography- county subdivision, tract, block group, and block. County subdivisions, at least in the NRPC region, are the functional equivalent of “towns” or “cities”. Each community is then broken down into one or more tracts, which can then be split into block groups, and finally blocks. Census data is also aggregated into many other boundaries, such as counties, urban areas, congressional districts, and metroareas. The map of Litchfield (shown right) depicts the 2010 Census boundaries that NRPC works closely with. Note that the entire Town is its own Census tract, while larger towns and cities will be broken up into many tracts.

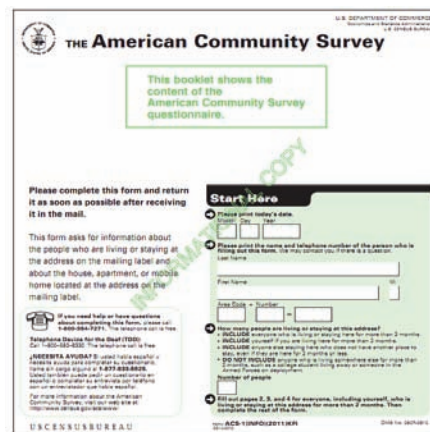


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www.nashuarpc.org/census2010 www.census.gov

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The major change from the last U.S. Census in 2000 is the elimination of the “long form”, sent to roughly 1 in 6 addresses nationwide. That questionnaire, which asked very specific questions regarding income, housing, commuting, and more, has been replaced by the American Community Survey (ACS).

This survey will reach the same number of people, but over a rolling 5-year cycle. This will allow the Census Bureau to release data more frequently than the old 10-year process. How often the data will be compiled and released depends on the size of the area in question:



| FREQUENCY | SAMPLE SIZE | POPULATION |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------|
| ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES | LARGEST | ALL AREAS |
| ACS 3-YEAR ESTIMATES | MEDIUM | AREAS OF 20,000+ |
| ACS 1-YEAR ESTIMATES | SMALLEST | AREAS OF 65,000+ |

In the Nashua region, this means that only the City of Nashua qualifies for the single-year estimates. Hudson and Merrimack joins Nashua in receiving 3-year estimates, followed by all census geographies for all the communities in the region qualifying for 5-year estimates.

Continued ➡



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Census 2010 Overview

Census Fact Sheet

MARCH 2011



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Each of these levels is still updated every year. For instance, the current 5-year release represents an average of data from 2005-2009. Later this year, this data will be updated to 2006-2010. Note that only the 5-year estimates will provide data at the block group level or higher.

American Community Survey data, like the long form data that preceded it, helps decision-makers determine how more than \$400 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year.

DATA RELEASE SCHEDULE

So, when will data concerning the communities in the Nashua region become available? Here's a general timeline of the data most relevant to NRPC activity, according to the Census website:

| PRODUCT | GEOGRAPHY | RELEASE DATE |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 2010 CENSUS REDISTRICTING DATA (Population, race, and housing unit counts) | BLOCKS AND LARGER | MARCH 2011 |
| SUMMARY FILE 1 (More detailed age, race, and household data) | BLOCKS AND LARGER | SUMMER 2011 |
| 2010 CENSUS APPORTIONMENT DATA | STATE AND NATIONAL | ALREADY RELEASED |
| ACS 1-YEAR ESTIMATES | NASHUA | EVERY SEPTEMBER |
| ACS 3-YEAR ESTIMATES | NASHUA HUDSON MERRIMACK | EVERY JANUARY |
| ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES | BLOCK GROUPS & LARGER | EVERY FEBRUARY |

The Census website has a wealth of information concerning the process in general, as well as the various data sets that will be released in the coming months. They also have an active social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. NRPC encourages anyone interested in Census data to explore these resources.

For more information, please contact Ryan Friedman at ryanf@nashuarpc.org or 603.424.2240 X20

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