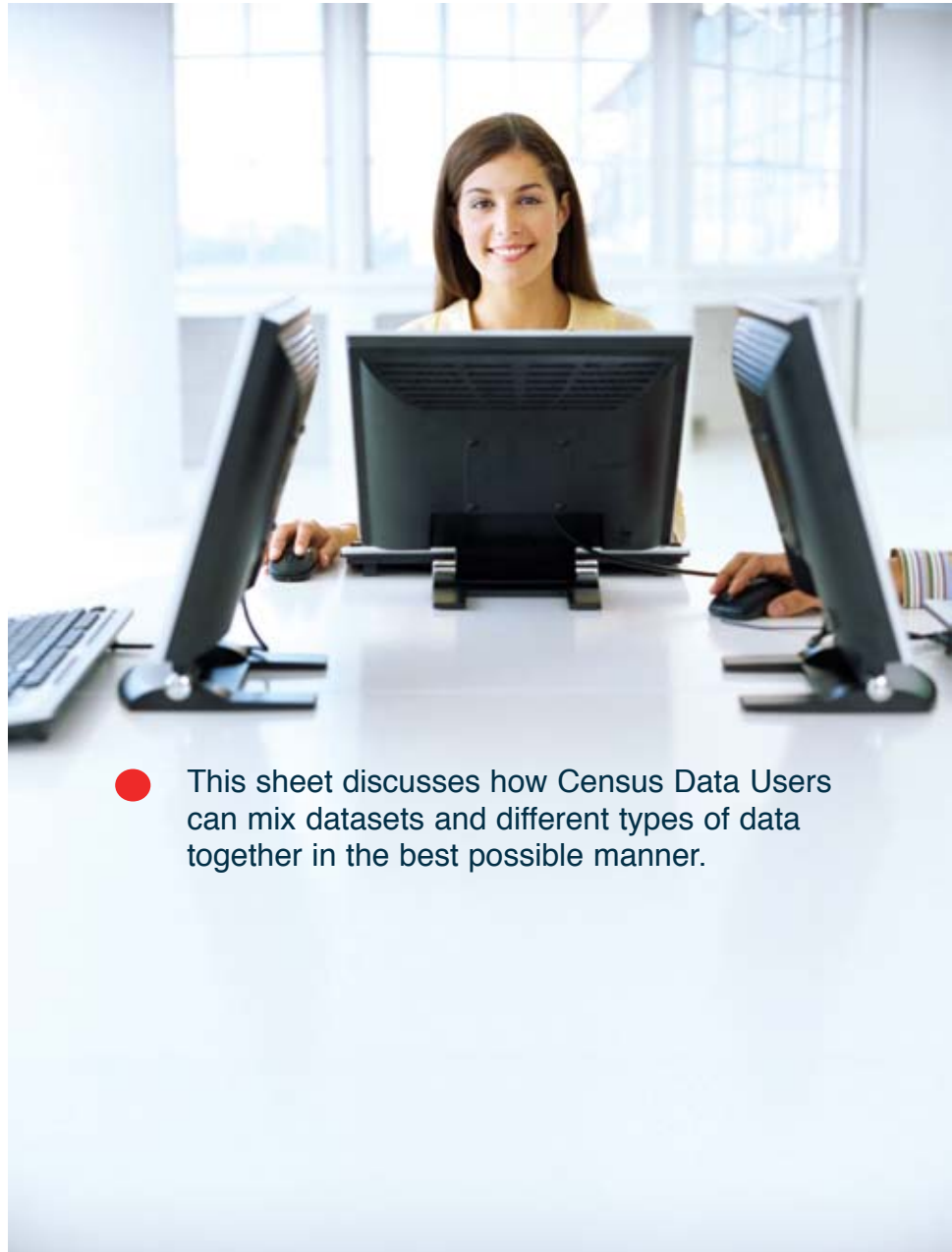


# Best Practices

## Mixing Census Data Types Together

by Steve Beleu, Oklahoma Department of Libraries



- This sheet discusses how Census Data Users can mix datasets and different types of data together in the best possible manner.

## Mixing Census Data Types Together

Some data users may mix different datasets and types of data together. Be aware of the types of data sets and know why they are different.

1. You should accurately report all data with correct citations as recommended in the companion guide “Choosing Census Data.”
2. There are two different and important types of datasets:
  - **“Point of Time Data”** is data representing one specific day when the people who were surveyed answered Census questions, such as “Census Day 2010” for the 2010 Decennial Census. Data from the Annual Population Estimates Program (APEP) is an example of “Point of time” data.

### Sample of Point of Time Data



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the American FactFinder website. It includes the U.S. Census Bureau logo, the American FactFinder search bar, and a menu with links for Main, Search, Feedback, FAQs, Glossary, Site Map, and Help.

#### Detailed Tables

You are here: [Main](#) ▶ [Data Sets](#) ▶ [Data Sets with Detailed Tables](#) ▶ [Geography](#) ▶ [Tables](#) ▶ [Results](#)

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#### T1. Population Estimates [11]

Data Set: [2009 Population Estimates](#)

NOTE: For information on errors stemming from model error, sampling error, and nonsampling error, see: <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology>.

	Ada city, Oklahoma
Total Population	
July 1, 2009	17,019
July 1, 2008	16,775
July 1, 2007	16,463
July 1, 2006	16,096
July 1, 2005	15,980
July 1, 2004	15,956
July 1, 2003	15,932
July 1, 2002	15,988
July 1, 2001	15,936
July 1, 2000	16,071
April 1, 2000 (Estimates Base)	16,076
April 1, 2000 (Census 2000)	15,691

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program  
More Tables and Information: [Population Estimates Program](#)

Note: The April 1, 2000 estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1 of the estimates year, other geographic program changes, and Count Question Resolution actions. All geographic boundaries for the July 1, 2009 population estimates series are defined as of January 1, 2009. An "(x)" in the Census 2000 field indicates a locality that was formed or incorporated after Census 2000 or was erroneously omitted from Census 2000. See [Geographic Change Notes](#) for additional information on these localities.

- “**Period of Time Data**” is data representing the average characteristics over a period of time such as 3-year data. This is how the American Community Survey (ACS) works.

### Sample of Period of Time Data

**U.S. Census Bureau**  
American FactFinder

Main Search Feedback FAQs Glossary Site Map Help

**Detailed Tables**

You are here: [Main](#) > [Data Sets](#) > [Data Sets with Detailed Tables](#) > [Geography](#) > [Tables](#) > [Results](#)

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[B02005. AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE FOR SELECTED TRIBAL GROUPINGS](#)  
- Universe: [PEOPLE WHO ARE AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE AND PEOPLE WITH NO TRIBE REPORTED](#)

Data Set: [2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#)  
Survey: American Community Survey

NOTE: Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the [official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties](#).

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

	Cherokee OTSA, OK; Oklahoma	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	66,215	+/-1,424
American Indian tribes, specified:	62,794	+/-1,469
Apache	94	+/-58
Blackfeet	7	+/-11
Cherokee	49,811	+/-1,377
Cheyenne	48	+/-44
Chickasaw	390	+/-221
Chippewa	65	+/-61
Choctaw	2,156	+/-481
Colville	0	+/-109
Comanche	296	+/-164
Cree	0	+/-109
Creek	2,397	+/-464
Crow	14	+/-20
Delaware	554	+/-172
Houma	0	+/-109
Iroquois	480	+/-143
Kowa	453	+/-190

3. Another way that distinguishes Census data is whether it is one-year or multiyear data:

**a. One-year data:**

- 1-year ACS data
- 2010 Decennial Census data
- APEP data

**b. Multiyear data:**

- 3-year ACS data
- 5-year ACS data

4. In addition to properly reporting and citing your Census data, we recommend including a user note that tells your customers you may have mixed different datasets and types of data together. Following is a recommended note you can use:

“**User note:** this report may mix different Census datasets and types of Census datasets together.”