

Data Users Pullout Guide

March 2004

I am looking for...

Raw Data About Immigration and Immigrants (microdata)					
Source	Where to Find It	What It Contains	Ease of Use	Features	Limitations
Census 2000 Summary Files 3 and 4 (SF3, SF4)	http://factfinder.census.gov	Foreign-born population by citizenship, year of entry, place of birth, language spoken at home, English proficiency, and race/ethnicity.	Medium	Provides the best data available for country of origin groups, especially smaller ones. Considered valid and reliable. Available at many geographic levels (state, county, tract, zip code).	Cannot customize tables. Origin countries with very small populations are not disaggregated. Does not provide immigration status.
Census 2000, 2001, and 2002 Supplemental Surveys (C2SS)	http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=DSS Also read: www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/index.htm	Same as SF3 and SF4.	Medium	Individual records allow user to define tabulations (microdata).	Not available at geographic levels with fewer than 250,000 people.
Census 2000 Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS)	www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html Also read: www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/PUMS/index.htm	Same as SF3 and SF4.	Difficult	Allows direct comparison between immigrants and natives. Individual records allow user to define tabulations (microdata).	5% sample file is not available at geographic levels with fewer than 500,000 people. 1% sample file is not available at geographic levels with fewer than 100,000 people. User needs statistical software and training.
Current Population Survey (CPS)	www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm	Place of birth, parental nativity, citizenship status, year of entry. March Annual Demographic supplement includes poverty status, income, health insurance, household and family characteristics, marital status, and geographic mobility.	Difficult	Individual records allow user to define tabulations (microdata). Provides annual estimates of foreign-born population between decennial censuses.	Available at the national level only. Not recommended for use at the metropolitan or sub-metropolitan level.

Standard Tables, Graphs, and Maps About Immigration and Immigrants					
Source	Where to Find It	What It Contains	Ease of Use	Features	Limitations
Current Population Survey (CPS)	www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/foreign/	Same as SF3. National level data on the foreign born by citizenship, year of entry, world region of birth, and Latin American region of birth.	Easy	Provides annual estimates of foreign-born population between decennial censuses.	Available at the national level only.
US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), formerly a part of INS	http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/aboutus/statistics/index.htm	Data on immigrants, refugees/asylum seekers, temporary visitors, naturalizations, and deportations. Available variables include country of birth, citizenship, last residence, year of admission, place of intended residence, immigration status, age, sex, marital status, and occupation. Estimates on unauthorized population by country of birth.	Easy	Disaggregated by country of birth, citizenship, or last residence and year of admission.	Data are for legal entrants only. Time lag may exist between year of entry and year Legal Permanent Resident status attained. Intended residence may be inaccurate and is listed only at the state level.
Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within US Dept. of Health and Human Services	www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/data/index.htm	Monthly data on refugee arrivals by state or by country of origin.	Easy	Data are released on a monthly basis.	Numbers do not include asylum seekers. Data available at state level only and not cross-listed by country of origin.
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home	Variety of data on refugee and asylum seeker arrivals by year and country of origin.	Easy	Global data.	Limited to refugees and asylum seekers.
UN Population Division	www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm	Data on immigration and emigration for every country.	Easy	Global data.	Data missing for some countries.
Migration Information Source	www.migrationinformation.org	Click on Global Data Center for migration statistics from around the world. Choose United States to generate tables and graphs for foreign-born population, immigration flows, asylum seekers, and/or citizenship. Click on Data Tools for foreign-born fact sheet by state or country of origin. The Source also provides refugee information, a glossary of international migration terms, and articles on various migration topics.	Easy	User-friendly tables and graphs. Draws data from a variety of government sources.	Data only available at national and state levels. Same limitations as data sources.
Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR)	www.gcir.org	US immigration statistics from Census 2000 organized by state and county. Variables include foreign born, citizenship, and year of entry; foreign born by region of origin (Asia, Africa, Europe, etc.); language spoken at home and level of English ability; and role of immigration in county's population change. Also contains international migration statistics by country, including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and number admitted to U.S.	Easy	Interactive maps that allow user to click on place to obtain related data. Tables and pie charts.	US data available at the state and county levels only. Language spoken at home is for entire population, not only foreign born.
Geography Network	www.geographynetwork.com	Data and maps to download for use in geographical information systems (GIS).	Difficult	Free map files.	Need GIS software & training.

Locally-Focused Resources — Washington DC Metropolitan Area					
Source	Where to Find It	What It Contains	Ease of Use	Features	Limitations
DC Agenda's Neighborhood Information Service	www.dcagenda.org/nis	Neighborhood profiles, tables, and maps for various geographic levels (ward, tract, neighborhood, ANC, PSA) within the District of Columbia. Includes foreign born, race/ethnicity, income, and housing data. Based on Census, HUD, police, and health department data.	Easy	Tables and maps. Includes geographies not available through Census.	Currently available for the District of Columbia only (with plans to expand to the metro area).
Maryland State Data Center	www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc/	Census and USCIS data on immigration at the state and local levels. Also contains information on Prince George and Montgomery counties.	Easy	Tables, graphs and maps and a useful PowerPoint presentation on Census 2000.	Limited to Maryland.
Northern Virginia Regional Commission	www.novaregion.org	All 2000 census data from SF1 and SF3 summary tables for cities, counties, and places in Northern Virginia. Relevant variables include ancestry, foreign-born status, citizenship, language, linguistic isolation, income, poverty, and race/ethnicity. 1990 and 1980 census data are also available. Data can be downloaded in several formats: Excel spreadsheet, 4-page summary of demographic highlights, 34-page profile of basic population and housing data from SF1, or 60-page profile from SF3 data.	Easy	Contains more than just immigration data.	Older census data allow for historical comparisons. Limited to Northern Virginia at the city, county, and place levels.
Local Government Resources	<p>Alexandria City Department of Planning: (703) 838-3866 http://ci.alexandria.va.us</p> <p>Alexandria City Public Schools: (703) 824-6635 www.acps.k12.va.us</p> <p>Arlington County Demography Dept.: (703) 228-3555 www.co.arlington.va.us/census</p> <p>Arlington County Public Schools: (703) 228-6000 www.arlington.k12.va.us</p> <p>Fairfax County Demography Dept.: (703) 324-4531 www.co.fairfax.va.us/aboutfairfax/</p> <p>Fairfax County Public Schools: (703) 846-8632 www.fcps.edu</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Planning: (410) 767-4500 www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc/</p> <p>Montgomery County Dept. of Planning: (301) 495-4610 www.mc-mncppc.org</p> <p>Montgomery County Public Schools: (301) 279-3334 www.mcps.k12.md.us/</p> <p>Prince George's County Dept. of Planning: (301) 952-3065 www.mncppc.org/pgco/home.htm</p> <p>Washington DC Public Schools: (202) 576-8850 www.k12.dc.us/dcps/home.html</p> <p>Washington DC Planning Office: (202) 442-7600 www.planning.dc.gov/</p>	Easy	Some have unique data not available through national sources. Staff can provide individualized help.	Data vary by jurisdiction and may not be available at the geographical level you need.

This guide's companion publication, **Putting Data to Work for Immigrants and Communities**, is available at www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/ or by calling 202.266.1940.

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Training Classes to Help Me Access and Use Data on Immigration and Immigrants

Title	Sponsor and Contact Information	Description	Cost in 2003
Local Demographic Analysis Workshop: Understanding the Census to Better Understand Changing Places and People	Smartgirl Technologies www.smartgirltechnologies.com Phone: (503) 234.5959	One-day seminar held in cities across the country on a rotating basis. Provides hands-on training in using the American FactFinder web tool to access census data. Census data sets and geography are explained, direction is given in accessing data, downloading it into useful formats, and presenting data for grant proposals, presentations, etc. Basic mathematical formulas are reviewed to turn raw data into meaningful percentages and comparisons. ArcExplorer, a free mapping software, is briefly demonstrated and provided on CD. Examples use data on the city in which the seminar is held, but ideas are easily transferable to other locations. Maximum class size is 16 people to facilitate student-instructor interaction. Covers census data but is not specifically focused on immigration.	\$249
Using Census Statistics	US Census Bureau www.census.gov/mso/www/ucs/index.htm	Two-day seminar held at the University of Maryland. Users get hands-on experience accessing census data via the Internet and CD-ROM. The background elements of census data are discussed. Seminar includes tour of the Census website, explanation of Census geographies and data products, training in using the American FactFinder web tool, and an overview of the American Community Survey and Economic Census. Class size: 20-25.	\$250 (includes lunch, snacks, and parking for both days)
Understanding Federal Statistics	US Census Bureau www.census.gov/mso/www/ufs/overview.html	Four-day seminar held at the University of Maryland provides a comprehensive look at the entire spectrum of Census Bureau programs and services and includes hands-on experience in a series of practical exercises. Sessions on data programs of other major statistics-producing Federal agencies. Introduces key geographic concepts, geographic areas, map products, and the Census Bureau's Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) system, a digital map database. Describes key demographic concepts and data products from the 2000 Census of Population and Housing and related current demographics programs. No special skills are required.	\$450 (includes lunch, snacks, and parking for all four days)
Other Census Training	Two of the DC State Data Centers can provide training free of charge. For more information contact DC Agenda at (202) 223.2598 or the DC Office of Planning at (202)442-7632. You can also contact the Philadelphia Regional Census office at (215) 656-7550 or www.census.gov/rophi/www/	Customized training on census data.	Free

Customized Data Analysis or Mapping

For assistance with customized data projects or mapping, or for help undertaking a research project, consider contacting an area Census Information Center (CIC), State Data Center (SDC), or university.

The Census Information Center Program is a cooperative program between the Census Bureau and 52 national, regional, and local non-profit organizations representing the interests of underserved communities. The centers serve as repositories of census data and reports, making Census information and data available to the public and the communities they serve. For a listing of CICs, go to www.census.gov/do/www/dic.html. Three notable DC metro area CICs are listed below.

Arab American Institute. A CIC that provides demographic information about the Arab-American population in the U.S. Some data are available online at www.aaiusa.org. For specific questions call (202) 429-9210.

National Council of La Raza. This CIC provides demographic information about the Latino population in the U.S. Some reports are available online at www.ndr.org (click on Immigration or Census) or call (202) 776-1578.

Special Services for Groups: Center for Data and Geographical Information Services. This CIC does customized data and GIS work at competitive prices for non-profits working with minority populations. Its website contains tables and maps for Orange County, California and links to many other resources (numerical data, GIS data, local organizations, and Census related affiliates). See www.ssgmain.org/CDGIS-2a.htm

The State Data Center Program is a cooperative program between the states and the Census Bureau that was created in 1978 to make data available locally to the public through a network of state agencies, universities, libraries, and regional and local governments. Each state has a lead center as well as other agencies that serve as SDCs. For a listing of SDCs by state, go to www.census.gov/sdc/www.

In the District of Columbia, the lead agency is the **DC Office of Planning**. This SDC serves local government, business, academia, media, and non-profits. Its most requested data are available through the web at www.planning.dc.gov. Other data requests may be made by calling (202) 442-7632. Most services are free, although there is a charge for mapping and large projects. The office can also arrange census data training for groups at no charge.

The **Maryland State Data Center** is housed in the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as the SDC for Maryland. Its website contains useful information (www.mdp.state.md.us/msdc/), including tables, graphs and maps. It can be reached at (410) 767-4500.

DC Agenda's Neighborhood Information Service is another area SDC worth mentioning. Its data tables and maps for the District are available on its website (www.dcagenda.org/nis). Other requests may be made by phone (202-223-2598). This SDC provides most services at no cost, including training, but more complex requests may require some payment.

Universities are another resource. For help with data gathering and analysis, consider contacting local departments of sociology, anthropology, demography, geography, social work, public health, law, etc. to see if they have done research on immigrants or if they have graduate students who might be interested in interning or doing research. Listed below are the websites for most of the area's universities:

American University
www.american.edu

Catholic University
www.cua.edu

George Mason University
www.gmu.edu

George Washington University
www.gwu.edu

Georgetown University
www.georgetown.edu

Howard University
www.howard.edu

Johns Hopkins University
www.jhu.edu

Marymount University
www.marymount.edu

Southeastern University
www.seu.edu

University of Maryland
www.umd.edu

University of the District of Columbia
www.udc.edu

Articles and Reports About Immigration and Immigrants

Regularly Updated Web-based Reports

Ameristat

www.ameristat.org

Summary reports on various U.S. population trends. Includes sections on the foreign born and migration. Some articles contain maps and links to spreadsheets of related data.

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees

www.gcar.org

Contains fast facts on employment, education, childcare, health, and other demographics. Includes a bibliography of immigrant-related sources.

Migration Information Source

www.migrationinformation.org

Includes refugee information, a glossary of international migration terms, country profiles, and articles on various international migration topics.

Migration News

<http://migration.ucdavis.edu>

Summarizes the most important immigration and integration developments of the preceding month. The purpose is to provide a monthly summary of recent immigration developments that can be read in 60 minutes or less. To subscribe, send your email address to: migrant@primal.ucdavis.edu

Single Publications

Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development. 2003. **2000 Census: Foreign-Born Population.** Arlington, Virginia: Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development.
[Available at www.co.arlington.va.us/census/people/foreignborn.htm](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/census/people/foreignborn.htm)

Capps, Randy and Jeffrey S. Passel. 2003. **The New Neighbors: A User's Guide to Data on Immigrants in US Communities.** Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, prepared for the Annie Casey Foundation.
[Available at www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=310844](http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=310844)

Council of Latino Agencies. 2002. **The State of Latinos in the District of Columbia: Trends, Consequences and Recommendations.** Washington, DC: Council of Latino Agencies.
[Available at www.consejo.org/news.htm](http://www.consejo.org/news.htm)

Department of Systems Management for Human Services, Fairfax County, Virginia. 2000. **A Community Sampler: Eight Immigrant and Refugee Communities with Public School Children.** Fairfax County, Virginia.
[Available at www.co.fairfax.va.us/comm/demogrph/pdf/RefugeeRep.pdf](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/comm/demogrph/pdf/RefugeeRep.pdf)

Grieco, Elizabeth M. 2003. **Census 2010 and the Foreign Born: Averting the Data Crisis.** Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.
[Available at www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/MPIPolicyBriefCensus.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/MPIPolicyBriefCensus.pdf)

Roy, Krishna with Dr. Heather McClure. 2003. **The State of Latino Kids in the District of Columbia.** Washington, DC: Council of Latino Agencies.
[Available at www.consejo.org/news.htm](http://www.consejo.org/news.htm)

Singer, Audrey. 2003. **At Home in the Nation's Capital: Immigrant Trends in Metropolitan Washington.** Washington, DC: Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, Brookings Institution.
[Available at www.brookings.edu/es/urban/gwrr/publinks/2003/immigration.htm](http://www.brookings.edu/es/urban/gwrr/publinks/2003/immigration.htm)

Singer, Audrey, Samantha Friedman, Ivan Cheung, and Marie Price. 2001. **The World in a Zip Code: Greater Washington DC as a New Region of Immigration.** Washington, DC: Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, Brookings Institution.
[Available at www.brookings.edu/es/urban/immigration/abstract.htm](http://www.brookings.edu/es/urban/immigration/abstract.htm)

US Census Bureau. 2003. **Using Census Data to Help Local Communities: Census Information Centers at Work.** Washington, DC: US Census Bureau, POL/03-CIC.
[Case studies available online at www.census.gov/mso/www/casestudies](http://www.census.gov/mso/www/casestudies)