

Census Geographies

[What are Census Geographies?](#)

[How are the Census Geographies divided?](#)

[How do I use Census Geographies in SAVI?](#)

[How do I use Census Geographies to identify an area on a map?](#)

What are Census Geographies?

- Census geographies are the types of geographic areas used by the U.S. Census Bureau in its data collection and tabulation operations. The Census Bureau summarizes their survey results by these geographic units in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals.

How are the Census Geographies divided?

- In order from largest to smallest division:

State	A primary governmental division of the United States.
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Individual Metropolitan Areas that are not closely associated with other MAs and are generally surrounded by non-metropolitan counties.
County	The first-level political division of most states, including Indiana. Counties are identified by both county name and county code, as established by the U.S. Census Bureau, in SAVI.
City	A type of incorporated place in all states and the District of Columbia. A subdivision of a county.
Township	A political sub-division of the county in many states, including Indiana.
Census Tract	Small statistical subdivisions of a county designed to be relatively permanent. The goal is for census tracts, when originally designated, to have between 2,500 and 8,000 people and to be homogenous with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions. Census tracts never cross county boundaries.
Census Block Group	A clustering of census blocks. A clustering of block groups combines to make a census tract. Block groups are always wholly contained within their census tract. The Census Bureau is for each block group to contain 400 housing units, and they generally vary in size between 250 and 550 housing units.
Census Block	Small areas bound on all sides by visible or invisible features such as roads and rivers or county lines and city boundaries.

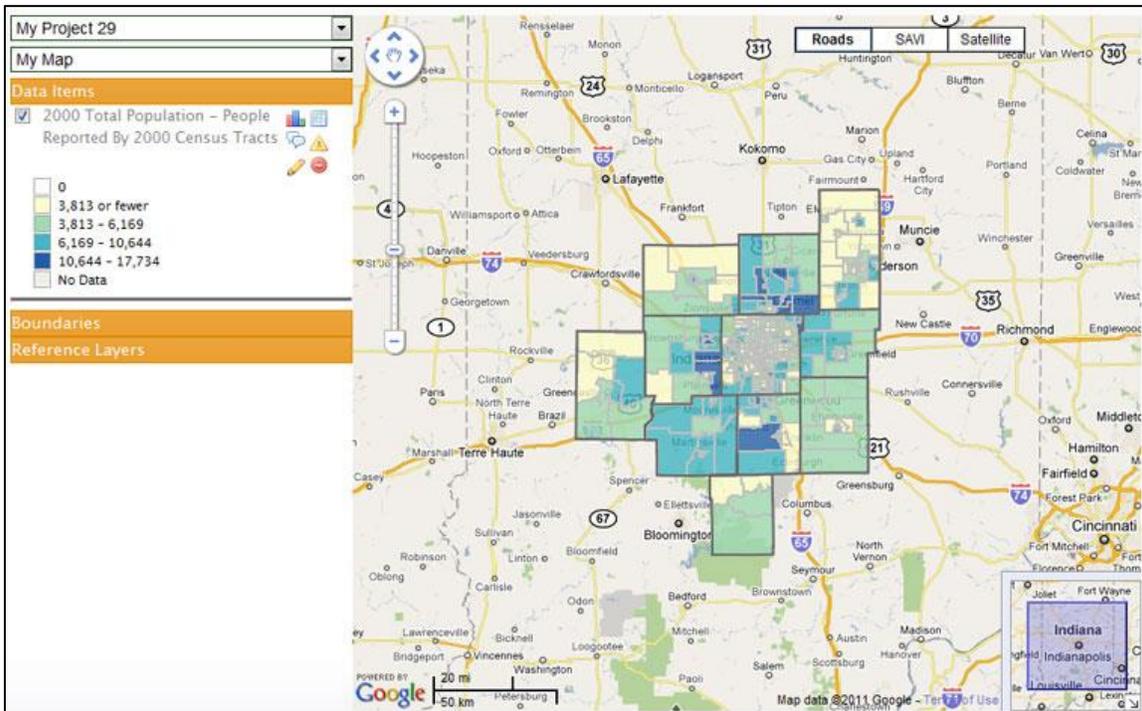
Census Geographies

How do I use Census Geographies in SAVI?

- Whenever you select data for anything in SAVI, you will be asked to choose a Reporting Level.



- This signifies how you want to see the data summarized. In the example below, the reporting level is census tract, so the eleven counties are subdivided into census tracts and color-shaded according to their values.





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Census Geographies

How do I use Census Geographies to identify an area on a map?

- Each census geography is assigned a unique identifier (ID). Here's an example:
 - State - 18
 - County - 097
 - Census Tract - 3103.04
 - Block Group - 1

Full ID	County	2000 Census Tract ID	2000 Block Group ID	2000 Total Population People
<input type="text" value="180973103041"/>	<input type="text" value="Marion County"/>	<input type="text" value="3103.04"/>	<input type="text" value="3103.04.1"/>	<input type="text" value="6,205"/>
180973103041	Marion County	3103.04	3103.04.1	6,205

- As seen in the picture above, the Block Group ID (3103.04.1) is the Census Tract ID (3103.04) and Block Group (1) put together.
- If we put the Block Group ID together with the State Code (18) and County Code (097) and remove the '.'s, we obtain the Full ID: 180973103041.
- If we click anywhere on a map, the data values for that location are displayed.

2000 Total Population People by 2000 Census Tracts	
Full ID:	<i>18063210500</i>
County:	<i>Hendricks County</i>
2000 Census Tract ID:	<i>2105.00</i>
Value:	<i>9,744</i>
Data Year:	<i>2000</i>