

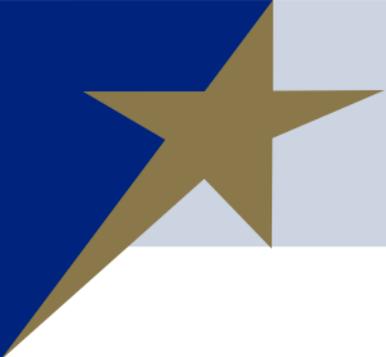
# The American Community Survey

Texas  
Transportation  
Planning  
Conference

Dallas, Texas

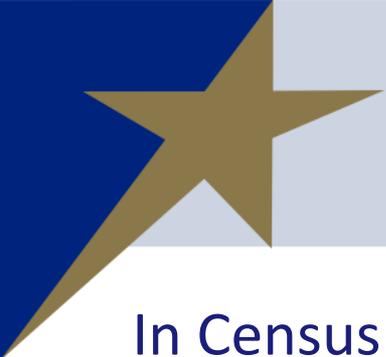
July 19, 2012





# Overview

- What is the American Community Survey?
- Content
- Survey Methodology
- Examples

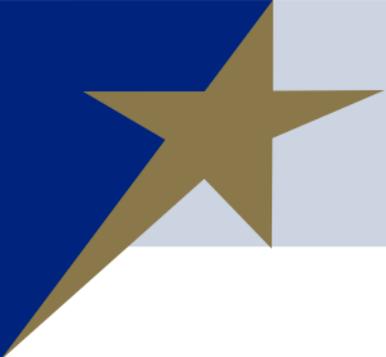


# Decennial Census

In Census 2000, the census used 2 forms

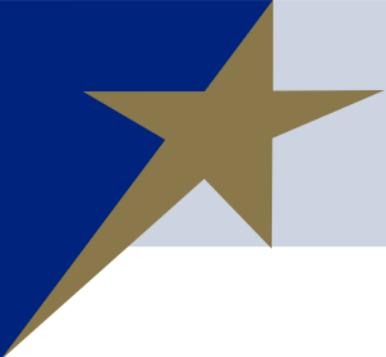
1. “short” form – asked for basic demographic and housing information, such as age, sex, race, how many people lived in the housing unit, and if the housing unit was owned or rented by the resident
2. “long” form – collected the same information as the short form but also collected more in-depth information such as income, education, and language spoken at home

Only a small portion of the population, called a sample, received the long form.



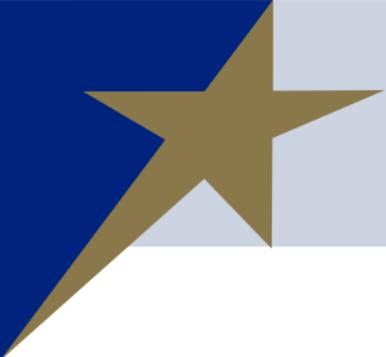
# 2010 Census and American Community Survey

- 2010 Census focused on counting the U.S. population
- The sample data are now collected in the ACS



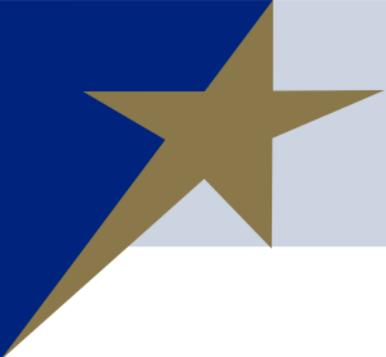
# American Community Survey

- Content
  - Demographic Characteristics
  - Social Characteristics
  - Economic Characteristics
  - Housing Characteristics



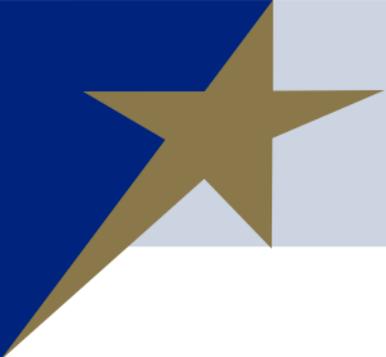
# American Community Survey

- Demographic Characteristics
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Race
  - Hispanic Origin
  - Relationship to Householder



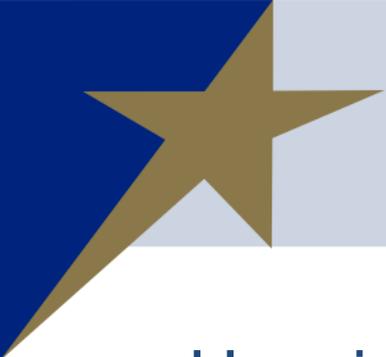
# American Community Survey

- Social Characteristics
  - Marital status and marital history
  - Educational attainment and school enrollment
  - Fertility
  - Grandparents as caregivers
  - Veterans status, period of military service
  - Disability status
  - Place of birth
  - Citizenship
  - Year of entry
  - Language spoken at home
  - Ancestry/Tribal affiliation



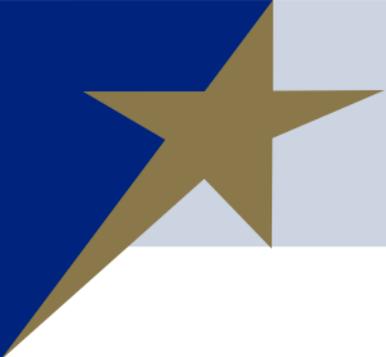
# American Community Survey

- Economic Characteristics
  - Income
  - Food Stamps Benefits
  - Labor force status
  - Occupation
  - Industry
  - Commuting to work
  - Place of work
  - Vehicles available
  - Health insurance coverage



# American Community Survey

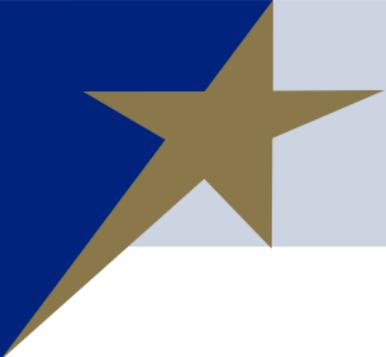
- Housing Characteristics
  - Year structure built
  - Units in structure
  - Year moved into unit
  - Rooms, bedrooms, kitchen facilities, Plumbing facilities
  - Housing heating fuel, telephone service available
  - Tenure
  - Occupancy and Structure
  - Housing Value
  - Taxes and Insurance
  - Utilities
  - Mortgage/Monthly Rent



# American Community Survey

## Period Estimates

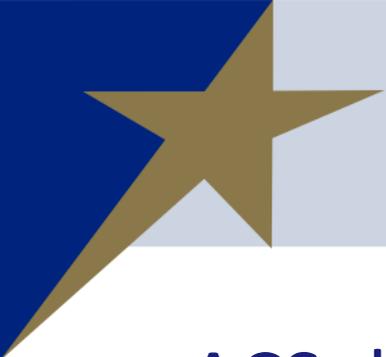
- ACS estimates are period estimates, describing the average characteristics over a specified period
- Contrast with point-in-time estimates that describe the characteristics of an area on a specific date
- 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates be are released for geographic areas that meet specific population thresholds



# American Community Survey

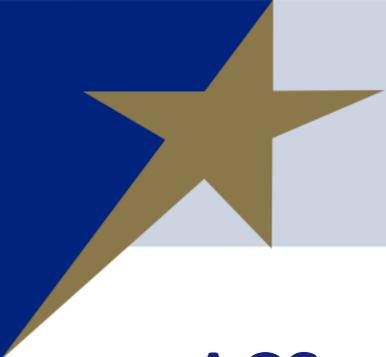
## Key Differences from Census 2000

- The goal of ACS is to produce data comparable to the Census 2000 long form data
- These estimates will cover the same small areas as Census 2000 but with smaller sample sizes
- Smaller sample sizes for 5-year ACS estimates results in reductions in the reliability of estimates



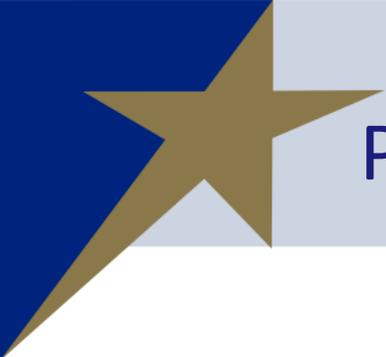
# American Community Survey

- ACS data are estimates
- ACS data are not counts of the population or housing
- Population counts are produced from the decennial census
  - Counts are updated throughout the decade through the Population Estimates Program



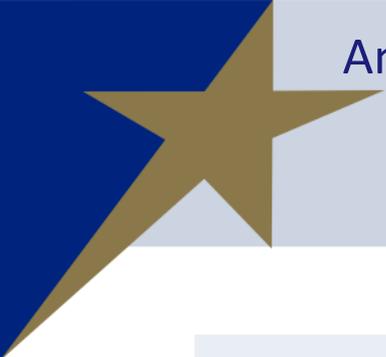
# American Community Survey

- ACS estimates are period estimates
- Period estimates describe the average characteristics over a specific time period
- Contrast with point-in-time estimates that describe characteristics as of a specific date



# Population Thresholds for ACS Estimates

	<b>1-year estimates</b>	<b>3-year estimates</b>	<b>5-year estimates</b>
65,000 + people	X	X	X
20,000+ people		X	X
Less than 20,000 people			X

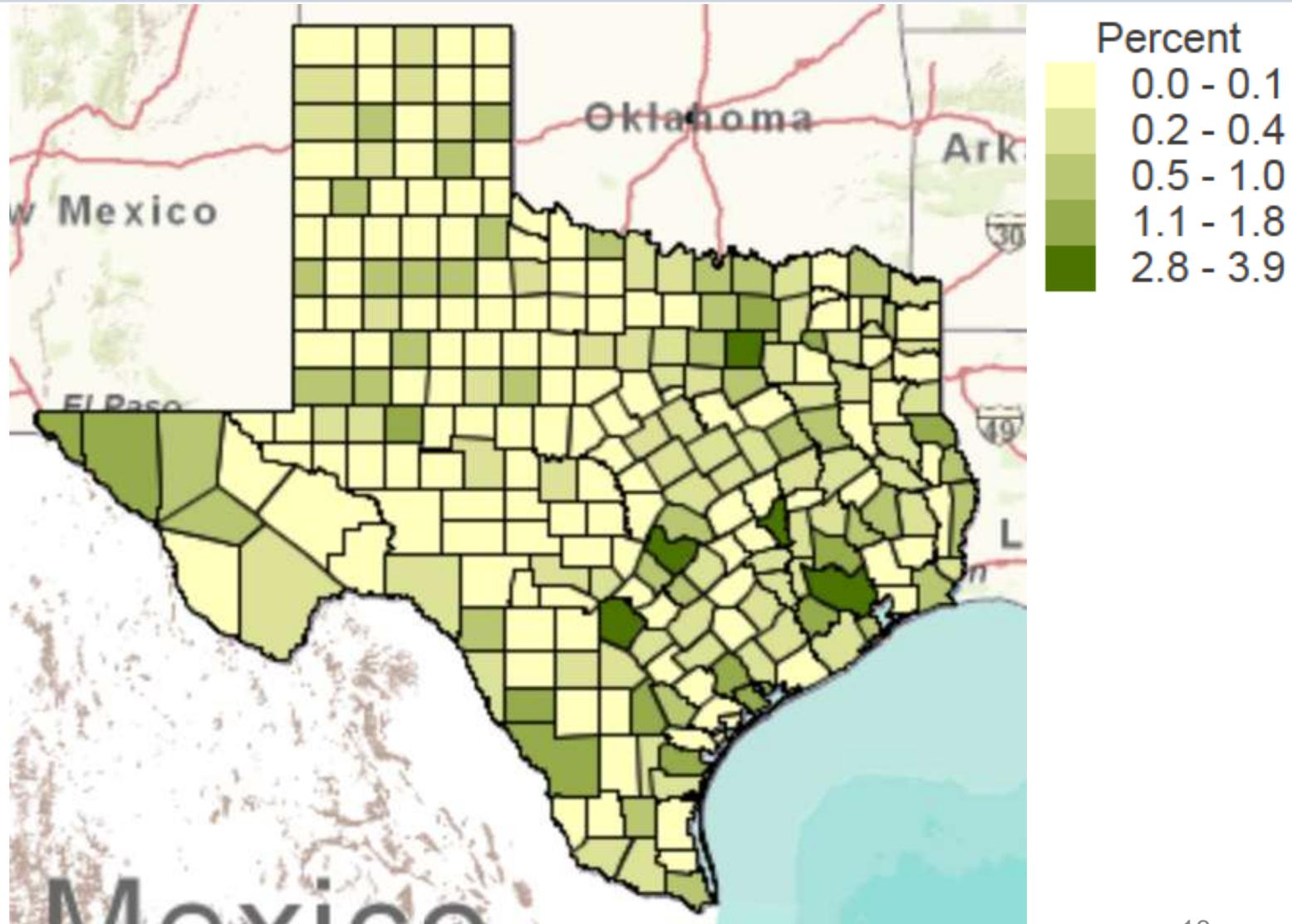


## American Community Survey Estimates of Length of Commute for 1, 3, and 5 Year Samples, Texas and Dallas County

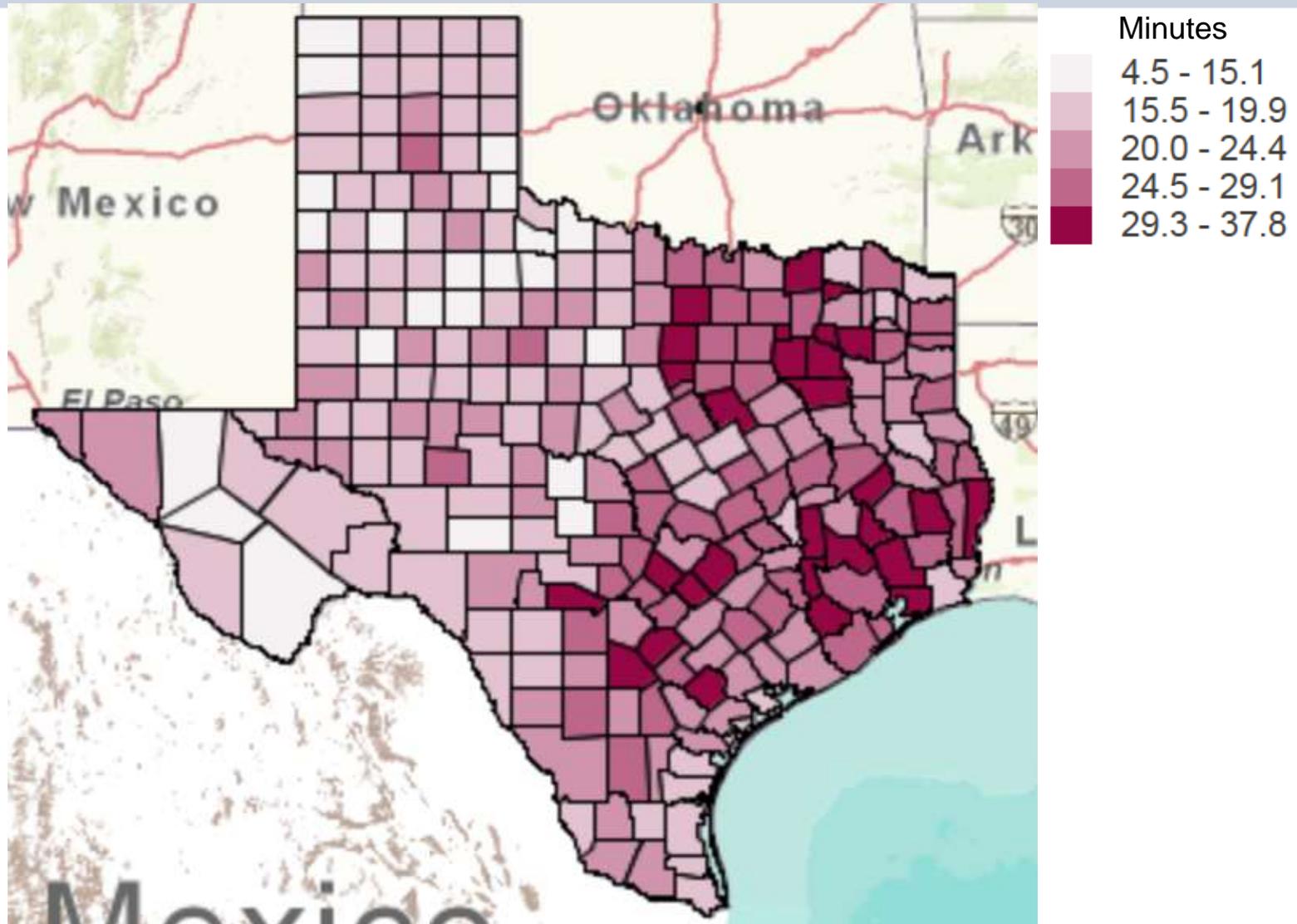
Estimate	15 to 19 minutes		
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Margin of Error as %
Texas 1-Year	1,729,834	21,458	1.2%
Texas 3-Year	1,745,539	11,896	0.7%
Texas 5-Year	1,699,736	9,596	0.6%
Dallas County 1-Year	163,809	8,036	4.9%
Dallas County 3-Year	167,115	3,708	2.2%
Dallas County 5-Year	162,345	3,336	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey  
 1-Year Sample 2010  
 3-Year Sample 2008-2010  
 5-Year Sample 2006-2010

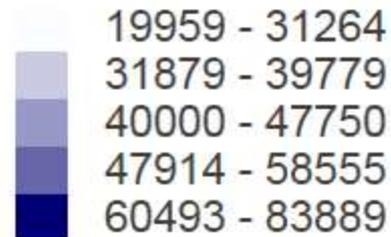
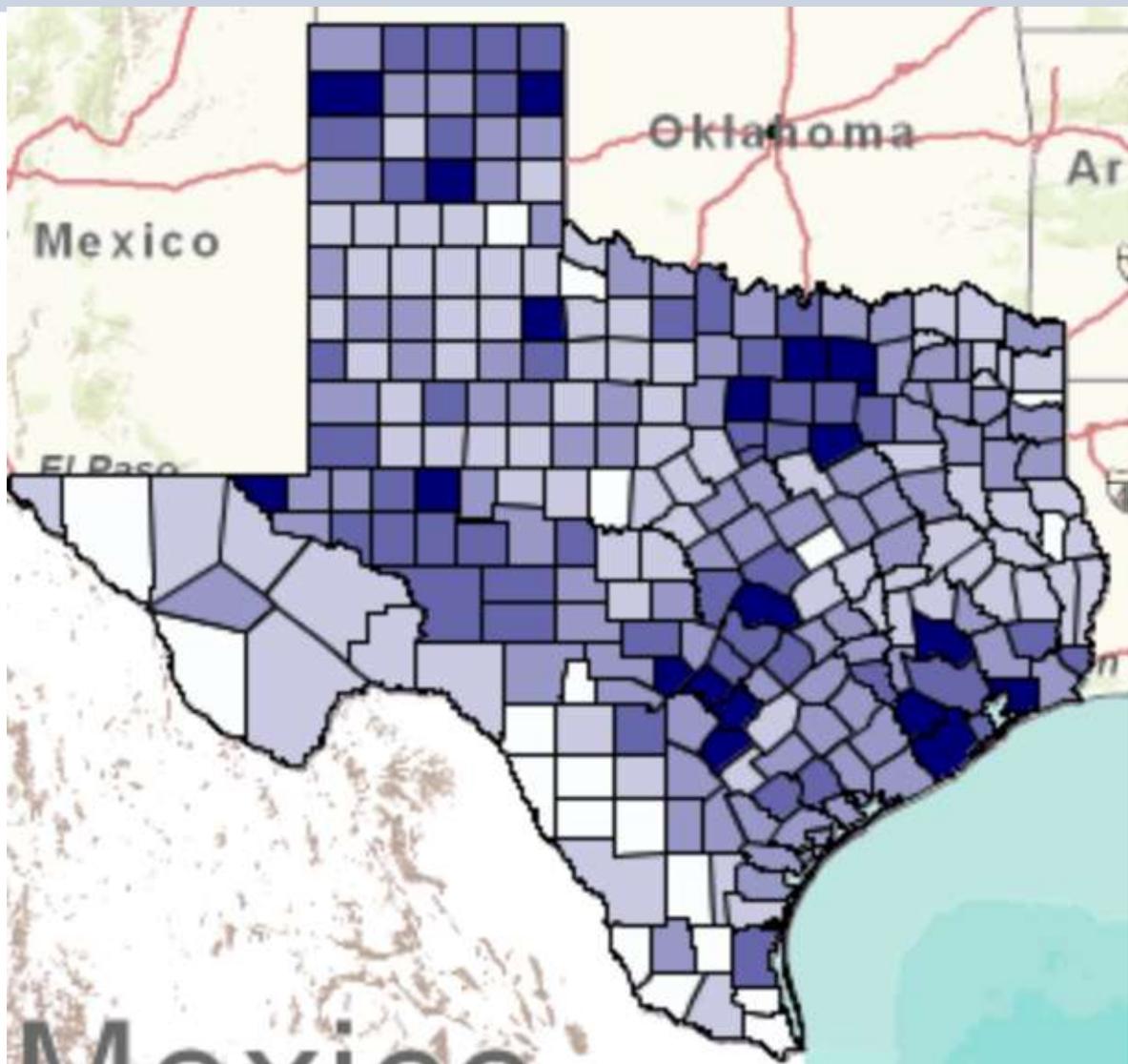
# Means of Transportation to Work - Public transportation (excluding taxicab)



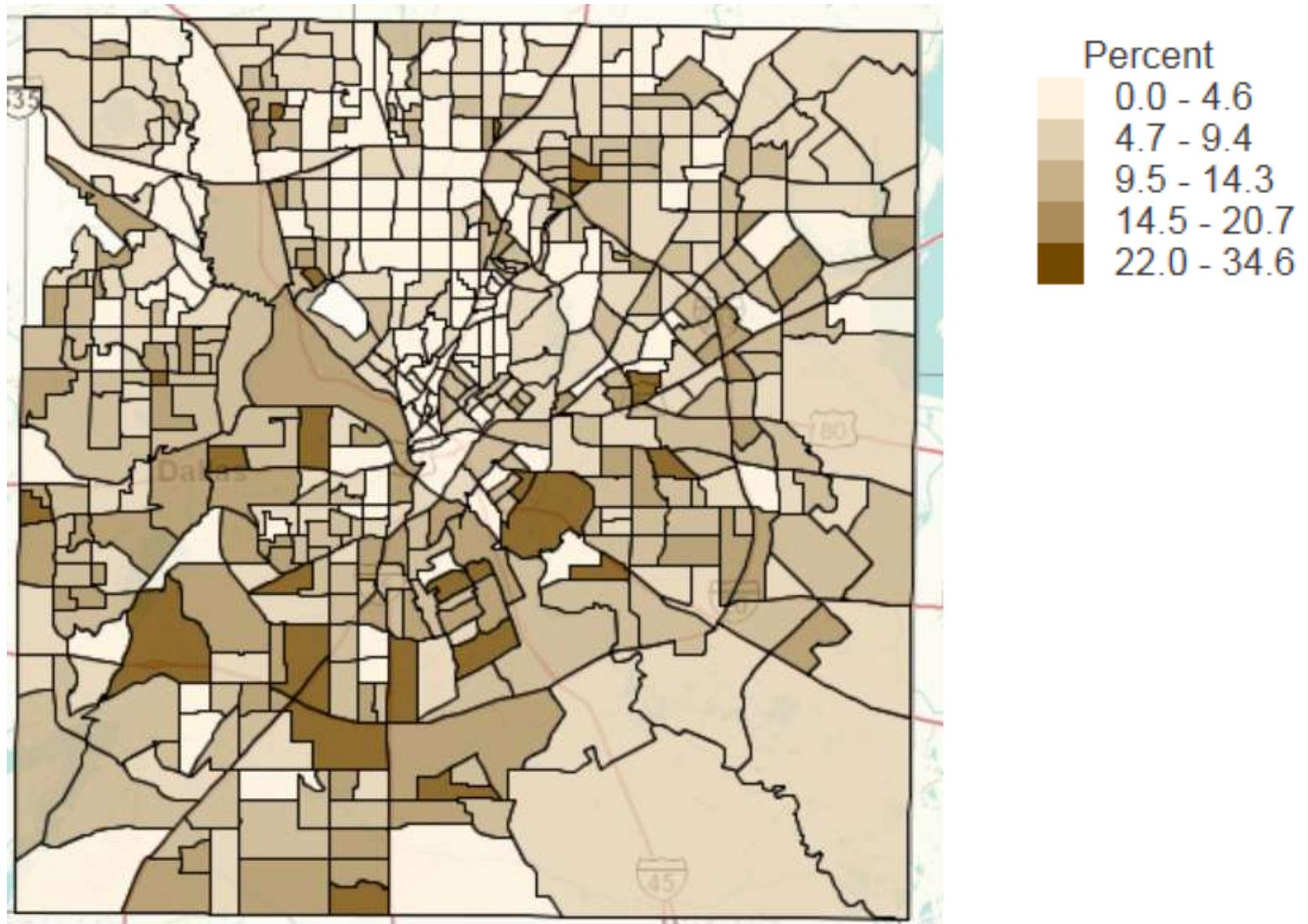
# Mean travel time to work (minutes), 2006-2010



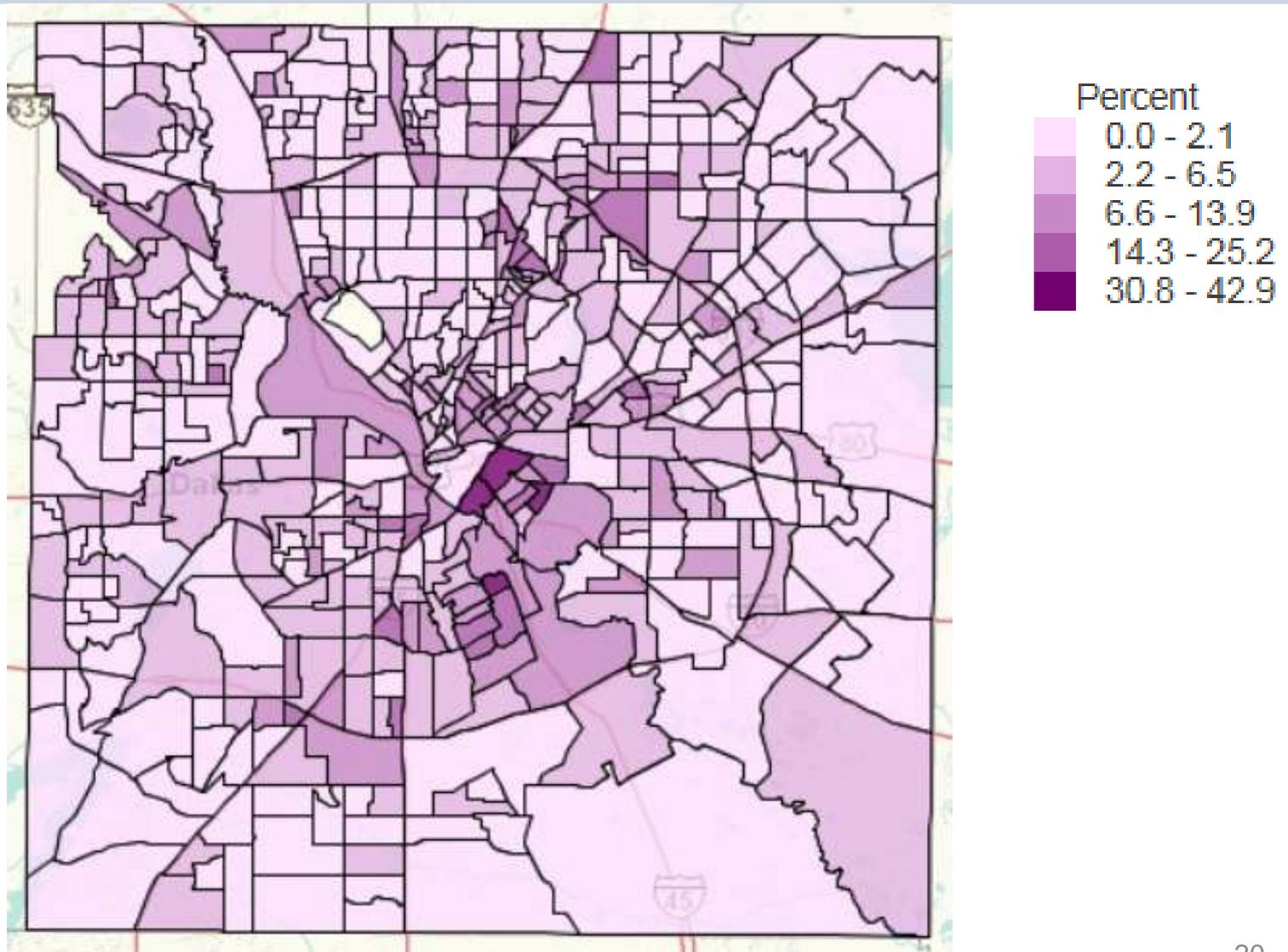
# Median Family Income , 2006-2010



# Percent of households that are female headed with (no husband present) with own children under 18 years of age by census tract, Dallas County, 2006-2010



# Percent of workers (aged 16 and older) in households with no vehicle available by census tract, Dallas County, 2006-2010



## Lloyd Potter, Ph.D.

Office: (512) 463-8390 or (210) 458-6530

Email: [Lloyd.Potter@osd.state.tx.us](mailto:Lloyd.Potter@osd.state.tx.us)

Internet: <http://osd.state.tx.us>