

GIS, Census Data & Non-Profits: Tools for Modern-Day Robin Hoods

Mapping Data to Redistribute Resources to Areas of Need

1) Background Data & Maps: American FactFinder <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

The difference between Decennial and American Community Survey data is in the fine print: look for confidence intervals, e.g. +/- 10% for in ACS data.

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder interface. The breadcrumb trail 'You are here: Main > Data Sets > Geography > Results' is circled in red. The main content area displays 'Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania' with a 'Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2006-2008' data set. A callout box on the right contains the text: 'Compare the 2005 – 2007 vs. 2006 – 2008 estimates. Check out each table for an overview of data.'

Quick Tip – check out ‘Thematic Maps’ and ‘List all maps.’

2) Your Data + Census Data = Persuasive Map

a) US Census Bureau for tract-level data & tract geography

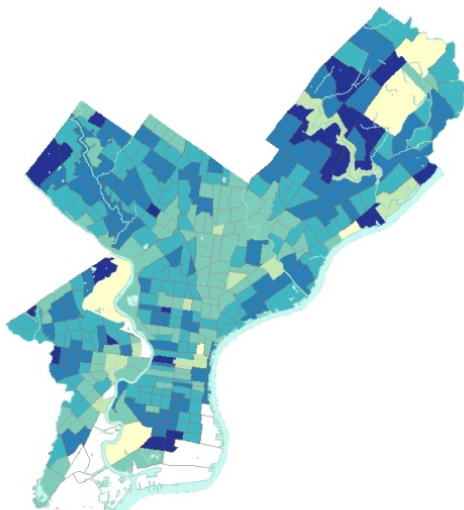


Figure 1 Percentage of Pop 60 yrs+ in Philadelphia

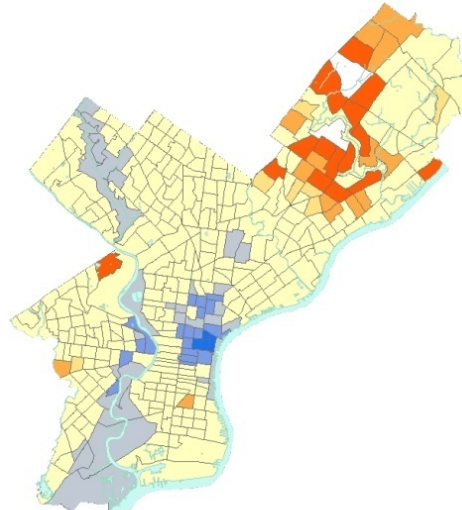


Figure 2 Hot & Cold Spots of Pop 60 yrs + in Philadelphia

Use spatial statistics (in ArcGIS) to help you identify clusters and patterns in your data.

b) Local Data

- i) Indicators, e.g. vegetarian restaurants as a coolness factor
- ii) ESRI Case Study of Students using GIS

<http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/fall02articles/in-steamboat-springs.html>