

Steps for Using the Census 2000 to Measure Density (units per acre)

1. On a map, define the area to be measured.
2. Identify the census tract, block group, and block number(s) for that location.
 - A. Go to the geography section of the US Census web site
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ReferenceMapFramesetServlet?_lang=en
 - B. Enter an address or zip code of the location to be measured.
 - C. Use the zoom tool on the right of the map to enlarge the map to the block level. Use the right and left arrows to navigate.
 - D. Record the tract (red text), the block group (orange), and the block numbers (yellow), as well as the name of the county (gray).
3. Download the Data.
 - A. Go to the Main Menu of the US Census web site
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet?_lang=en
 - B. Click on "Data Sets" in the "Getting Detailed Data section.
 - C. Check "Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data." You will see a list of links. Select "Detailed Tables."
 - D. Under "Select a geographic type," select "block." Select a state, then using the information you gathered in step 2D, select a county, a tract number, and a block group number when prompted.
 - E. It is worthwhile to confirm that you have entered the correct numbers by selecting a block in the "Select one or more geographic areas" window, then clicking on "Map It." A window will open with a map with several blocks, one of them highlighted. If this looks like the right area, you have entered the correct numbers.
 - F. In the "Select one or more geographic areas" window, click on the block numbers you want data for and then click "Add." Click "Next."
 - G. In the "Select one or more tables" window, scroll down to "H.1. Housing Units." Highlight it and click "Add." Click "Show Table."
 - H. You will see a table with numbers of housing units for each block you selected.
4. Calculating the Density.
 - A. Using a mapping software program or measuring by hand, determine the number of acres in the area you defined. Make sure that it corresponds to the boundaries of the US Census blocks.

Divide the number of units by the number of acres.