

Create a Map of Hispanic Settlement in a New Jersey County

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Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

An introduction to the sociological analysis of society and culture, including the origin and design of political, economic, and social institutions such as religion, the family, class and caste, education, values, norms, roles, and sociocultural change. Students learn to analyze, evaluate, and critique social structures.

Class Topic: Race and Ethnicity

Learning Goals:

Upon completion of this activity you will be able to:

- Identify the U.S. Census Bureau's American FactFinder portal as a resource for accessing and visualizing demographic data used in scholarly research;
- Apply the outlined procedure to access data and produce a basic map using American FactFinder;
- Adapt the outlined procedure to access data and create maps with different geographies and variables;
- Interpret the map with respect to key sociological concepts such as race/ethnicity, gender, occupation, S.E.S., etc.;
- Evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of using census maps as a method to understand sociological concepts.

Step 1: Generate data for your map

- 1.1: Ensure that you have access to a computer connected to the internet and a printer.
- 1.2: Navigate to the U.S. Census Bureau's homepage: <http://www.census.gov/>
- 1.3: Hover your mouse over the "Data" heading at the top of the page to display the drop-down menu.
- 1.4: Click on "American FactFinder."
- 1.5: On the American FactFinder landing page, click on "Guided Search."
- 1.6: Click on the button "Get Me Started," if prompted.
- 1.7: From the "Guided Search" landing page, follow the steps as you are prompted to do so:
 - a. **Start:**
 - i. Select the first radio button for information about **people**.
 - ii. Click "Next."
 - b. **Topics:**
 - i. Click on the plus sign (+) next to "Origins" to display the drop-down menu.

- ii. Click on the link for “Hispanic or Latino” to add the variable to “Your Selections.
- iii. Click “Next.”
- c. **Geographies:**
 - i. Under “Add one or more geographic areas...” click on the down arrow next to “select a geographic type” to expand the drop-down menu.
 - ii. Click on “Census tract.”
 - iii. From the “Select a State” drop-down menu, click on your state.
 - iv. From the “Select a County” drop-down menu, click on your county.
 - v. In the “Select one or more geographic areas...” dialog box, click on the topmost option (“All Census tracts within [your county], [your state]”) and click the button “Add to Your Selections.”
 - vi. Click “Next.”
- d. **Race/Ethnic Groups:**
 - i. Click the “Skip this Step” button.
- e. **Search Results:**
 - i. Choose the option “Hispanic or Latino Origin” (ID: B03003) from the list of results.

END OF STEP 1

You should now be at the “Table Viewer,” which will display a data table with the number of Hispanic/Latino residents by Census tract for your selected county.

Step 2: Generate your map

2.1: On the “Table Viewer” page, click “Create a Map” from the “Actions” options. Each data point will become “clickable” and appear in blue font.

2.2: In your data table, click on any data point in an “Estimate” column within the row “Hispanic or Latino.”

2.3: Confirm you have selected the correct data [**Estimate; Total: - Hispanic or Latino by: Census Tract**] for your map in the pop-up window “Select a Data Value to Map.”

- a. If correct, click the button “Show Map.”
- b. If incorrect, click the “Cancel” button and return to Step 2.2 above.

END OF STEP 2

You should now be at the “Map View,” which will display a map depicting the number of Hispanic/Latino residents by Census tract for your selected county.

Step 3: Print your map

3.1: Adjust the zoom to your preference using the slider bar at the left side of the map view window.

3.2 [optional]: Customize your map by exploring the options available under “Modify the map using the options below.”

3.3: When you are satisfied with the look of your map, generate a printer-friendly version

- a. Click on the printer icon in the blue navigation bar across the top of the map viewer window.
- b. Select the orientation and paper size by clicking the appropriate radio buttons.
- c. Enter a Map Title in the text entry box.
- d. Click “OK.”
- e. When prompted, click “Open” to view your map file.

3.4: Send your map to the printer, following the usual procedure for your system configuration.

END OF STEP 3

Congratulations! You’ve completed your map!

Writing Assignment -- Instructions

Compare Hispanic Settlement in Your County vs. Mercer County

To complete this assignment, please write a 1-2 page paper that addresses the following questions:

1. Which County did you investigate?
2. What stands out to you about the map you developed?
3. Compare the county you looked at with Mercer County: http://www.city-data.com/county/Mercer_County-NJ.html What's the most striking feature your county and Mercer County share? What's the biggest difference?
4. What do you think explains the similarities and differences between your county and Mercer? Think about gender, occupation, and other demographic breakdowns to help you interpret your findings.
5. What are the strengths of using census data? What are the weaknesses? What types of research questions emerge based on your findings from this analysis?