In the first exercise, you identified your census tract and found the median household income of that tract and of the urban area surrounding it. In this exercise, I want you to produce five tables about your census tract and its urban area. The first table is the same for everyone. It is a “difference-in-difference” table for median household income. You will be comparing the median income of your census tract with the median income in your urban area in 1990 and 2000.

To illustrate, let’s take my neighborhood, Census Tract 1.02 in Santa Barbara. The comparison area is the Santa Barbara urbanized area. Here is a simple difference table for median household income.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Census Tract</th>
<th>Santa Barbara Urbanized Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990 Census</td>
<td>$35,797</td>
<td>$36,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Census</td>
<td>$43,653</td>
<td>$50,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Change</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relative to the Santa Barbara Urbanized Area, my neighborhood became less affluent from 1989 to 1999.

For your next appointment with me, please bring five tables. The first is like Table 2, a difference-in-difference for median household income for your census tract and for its urbanized area. If you would prefer using the county or the metropolitan area, that’s fine. For the other four tables, select data from the list of tables available from the Census. The data should illustrate factors that you believe are important in understanding your neighborhood. Two of the tables must be difference-in-difference tables. The steps below tell you how to access the tables in both the 1990 and 2000 Censuses. You must know the number of your census tract first, however.
Retrieving Census Data for 1989 and 1999

Step 1: Go to the Census Web Site, http://www.census.gov/.

Step 2: From the list of links on the left of the page (in blue), select American FactFinder.

Step 3: The FactFinder page will pop up. Look at the list of links on the left of the page. Select the link “DATA SETS.” A list will open just below “DATA SETS.” From this list select “Decennial Census.”

Step 4: Select the tab in the middle of the page labeled “Census 2000.”

Step 5: You’ll now see a number of buttons. Select the button labeled “Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) – Sample Data.”

Step 6: The box you select will become slightly darker and a list of links will appear on the right of the box. The top of the list will read “Select from the following:” Select the top link on the list, which is “Detailed Tables.”

Step 7: You will now see a series of boxes that will allow you to specific the geography you want. Each box has a pull-down menu which narrows the search to the geography you want. Go through those boxes to get either the census tract, urbanized area, msa or whatever you want. At the end of that series of boxes, you will see the button “Add.” If you’ve got the geographical area you want, select the Add button and the geography will in the box below. If that looks right, select the button labeled “Next.”

Step 8: You will then see a box with a long list of tables. Go through that list to find the tables you want. If you want to see a table, select it in the list and then select the “Add” button. The name of the table will appear in the box below. Once you have all the tables you want, select “Show Result.” The table will then pop up.

For the 1990 census, you follow the same steps, except at Step 4, select the tab “1990 Census.” Everything else is basically the same. You won’t see as many buttons in Step 5, but you will see “1990 Summary Tape File 3 (STF 3) – Sample data.” This is the 1990 version of “Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) – Sample Data.” Select this button and away you go.