

Using the Census (and other data sources) in the Social Sciences

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Today's program

- Canadian Census of Population, and why you want to use it in your courses
 - and other sources of data
- Tools to make using the Census easier and more interesting

Census of population

- Canadian survey with longest history
 - first census in Canada -- 1666
 - first national census -- 1871
 - 98 colonial and regional censuses in between
 - 1871-1951 -- every ten years
 - 1951-2001 -- every five years
- widest range of topics covered
 - up to 565 questions asked in a single census
- more census history on [STC website](#)

Uses of census in *SOSC teaching*

- wide range of variables and fine geographic detail
 - no health component
- required whenever questions about ethnicity are considered
- survey with longest historical range

What STC surveys are used for

- analyze economic performance
- develop fiscal, monetary, and foreign exchange policies
- shape international tariffs and trade negotiations
- develop policies and programs to assist small businesses
- support policy development and evaluate government programs on economic and social well-being
- improve allocation of government program funding by determining their social and economic effects
- support the regulatory and legislative requirements of government;
- draw electoral boundaries
- determine equalization payments and other federal-provincial fiscal transfers
- adjust inflation-indexed contracts and entitlements
- develop programs to promote domestic and international competitiveness
- support immigration policies and programs
- support tourism strategies and programs
- assess the cost-effectiveness of health care and education programs
- monitor the justice system's effectiveness and efficiency
- select sites for schools and public transportation
- develop programs such as day care and subsidized housing.

why other surveys are different from the census

- much smaller sample size
 - more problems with confidentiality
 - greater variances, therefore more difficulty attaching statistical significance to results
 - less geographic detail
- fewer opportunities for time series analysis
 - many surveys only done once, or on an irregular basis
- some longitudinal surveys

types of surveys

Agriculture	49	National accounts	52
Arts, culture & recreation	15	Personal/household finance	17
Business enterprises	23	Population and demography	27
Communications	15	Prices and price indexes	32
Construction	4	Primary industries	13
Education	49	Science and technology	19
Energy	29	Service industries	41
Environment	8	Social conditions	16
Government	30	Trade	24
Health	36	Transport and warehousing	30
Justice	23	Travel and tourism	14
Labour	50		
Manufacturing	47		

education surveys

- close to 30 institutional surveys and household surveys
- PUMFs not available for most surveys

health surveys

- Canada health survey
- Canada's alcohol and other drugs survey
- Canadian community health survey (2+)
- Canadian health and disability survey
- Canadian study of health and aging (3)
- Canadian tobacco use monitoring survey (5+)
- Consumption of prescribed drugs in Canada
- Health and activity limitation survey (2)
- Health promotion survey (2)
- Joint Canada-United States survey on health
- National alcohol and drug survey
- National longitudinal survey of children and youth (3+)
- National population health survey (4+)
- Participation and activity limitation survey
- Smoking habits of Canadians (12)
- Violence against women
- Youth smoking survey (2)

General Social Surveys

- primary objectives of the GSS are
 - to gather data on social trends in order to monitor changes in the living conditions and well-being of Canadians over time; and
 - to provide immediate information on specific social policy issues of current or emerging interest
- cycles allow for limited analysis of trends

GSS cycles

GSS Cycle Topics

Date of GSS (cycle #)

1st series
of survey

2nd series
of survey

3rd series
of survey

Health	1985 (1)	1991 (6)	
Time Use	1986 (2)	1992 (7)	1998 (12)
Victimization	1988 (3)	1993 (8)	1999 (13)
Education, Work & Retirement	1989 (4)	1994 (9)	
Family	1990 (5)	1995 (10)	2001 (15)
Social Support	1985 (1)	1990 (5)	1996 (11)
Access to & Use of ICT	2000 (14)		
Social Support and Aging	2002 (16)		
Social Engagement	2003 (17)		

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/LibraryDataServices/SubjectGuides/gss.htm>

labour surveys

- many with some labour content
- primary ones are
 - Labour Force Survey (LFS)
 - monthly, from 1945; microdata available from 1976
 - cross-sectional
 - Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID)
 - annual, from 1993
 - longitudinal and cross-sectional

selection of household surveys

- Aboriginal Peoples Survey
- Adult Education and Training Survey (AETS)
- Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating
- Canadian Community Health Survey - Nutrition
- Canadian Health Measures Survey
- Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey
- Canadian Travel Survey
- Changes in Employment Survey
- Ethnic Diversity Survey
- Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey
- Household Internet Use Survey
- Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada
- National Graduates Survey
- National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth
- Ontario Employment Benefits and Support Measures Survey
- Survey of Financial Security
- Survey of Household Spending
- Youth in Transition Survey

CANSIM

- premier source of Canadian time-series data on labour, health, income, trade, education, manufacturing, investment and more
- over 26 million series

E-STAT

- “dynamic interactive teaching and learning tool for the education community”
- easy access to census, CANSIM, environmental data
- interactive mapping tools

STC resources for educators

- [learning resources for the post-secondary community](#)
- everything you need to start [designing assignments](#) using statistics
- [links to assignments](#) from other postsecondary institutions

ICPSR

- **I**nter-university **C**onsortium for **P**olitical and **S**ocial **R**esearch
<<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>>
- maintains and provides access to a vast archive of social science data for research and instruction
- offers training in quantitative methods to facilitate effective data use

Part 2: Using statistics in the classroom

- Learning resources
- *The Daily*
- Course assignments
- Search Map 2001

Learning resources

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/list.htm>

Some of what you will find:

- Dynamic population pyramids
- Canada quiz
- Flash animations
- Animated maps

Other helpers

Illustrated glossary

http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Di ss/Reference/COGG/I ndex_e. cfm

Thematic maps

http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Di ss/Maps/Themati cMaps/i ndex_e. cfm

The Daily

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/dai-quo/>

- Released every day at 8:30 a.m.
- *The Daily* issues news releases on the current social and economic conditions
- Today's release is often tomorrow's news.

Course assignments

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/liaison/course.htm>

- Covers many topics in the social sciences, developed by university teachers

Teacher's Kits

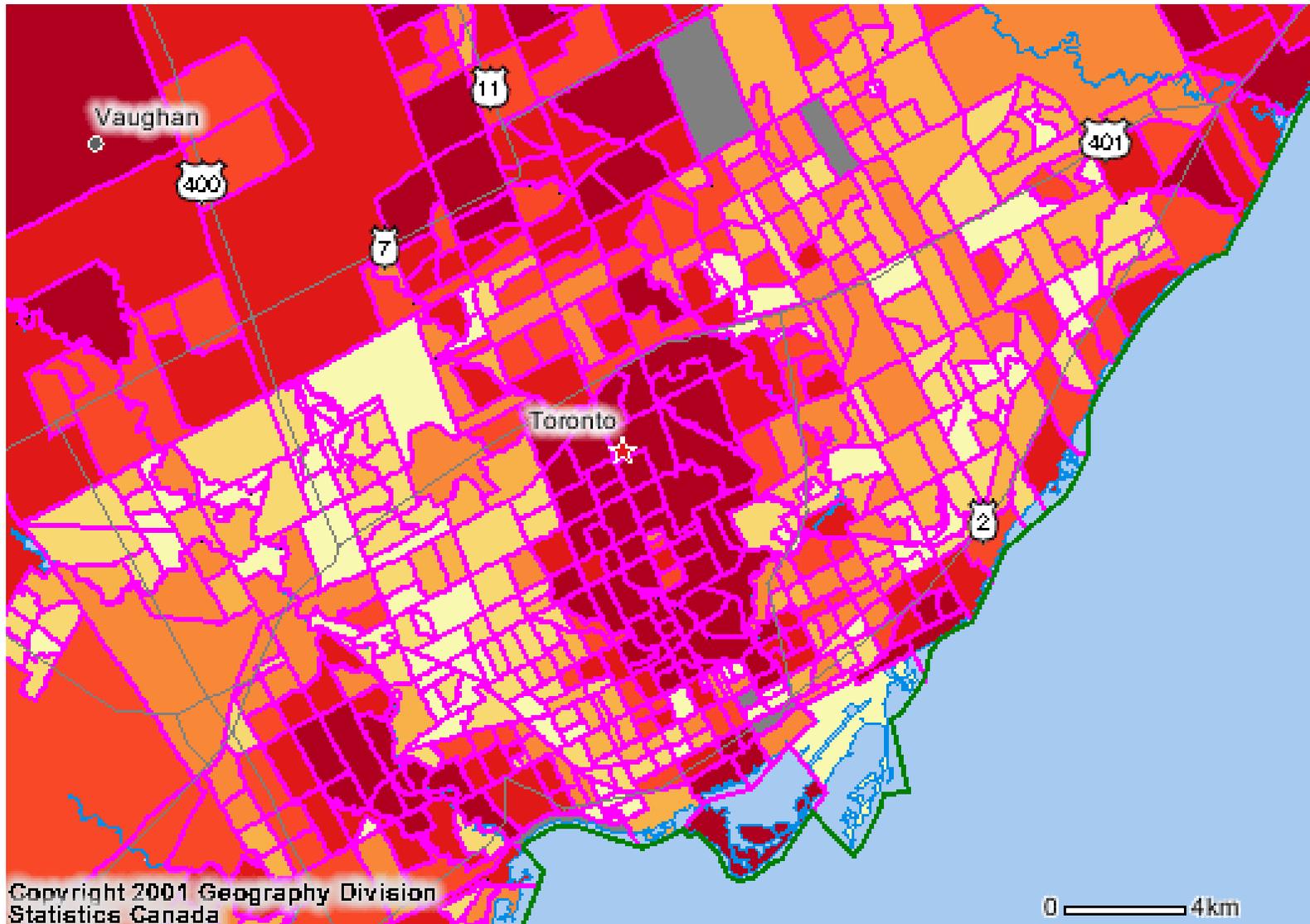
<http://www.statcan.ca/english/kits/kits.htm>

Secondary level assignments could be modified for university

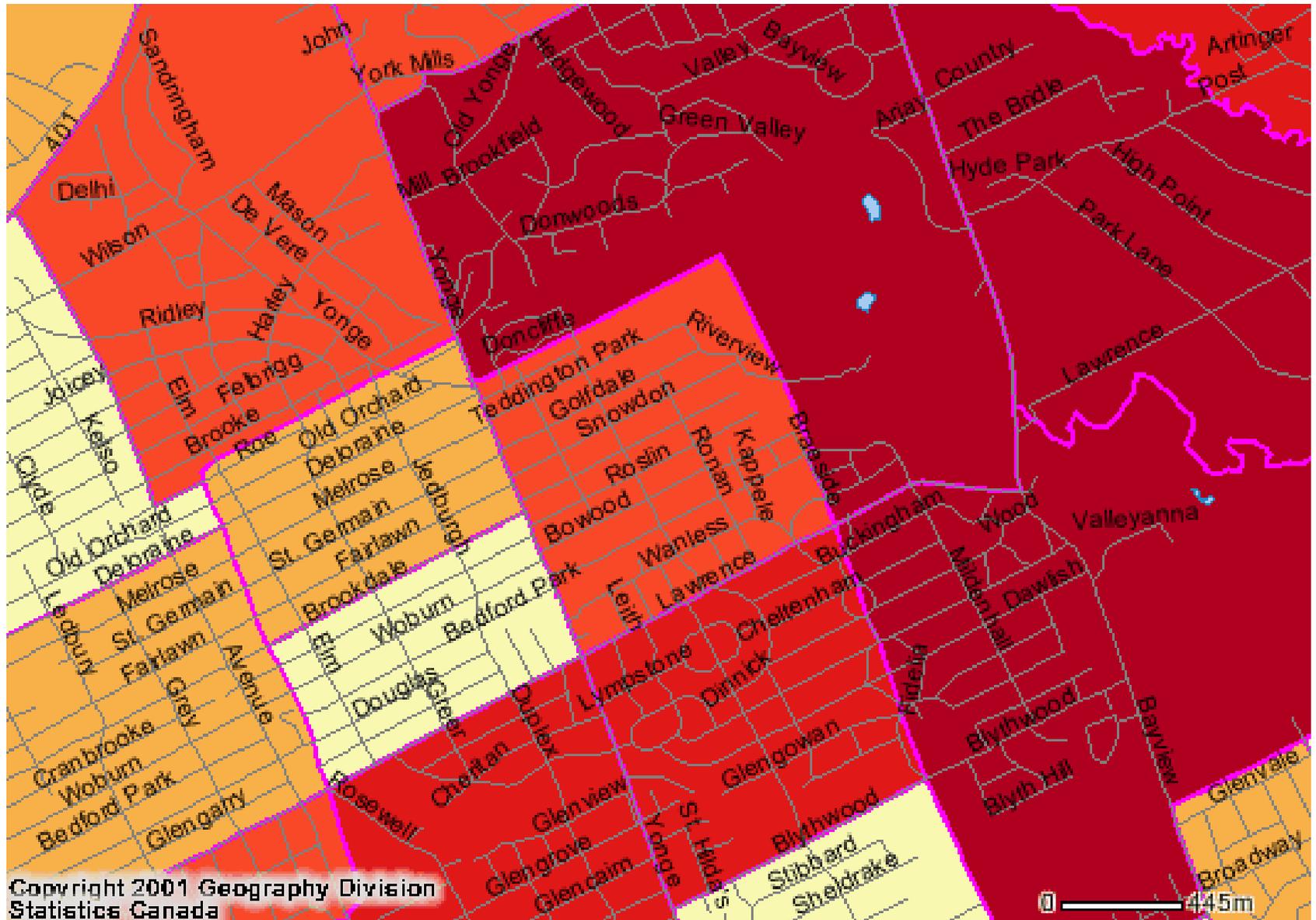
Search Map 2001

- Produce customized maps based on census for 2001
- Helps learners to visualize census information
- Can be executed at varying levels of detail

Map showing Average family income in 2000



Map showing Average family income in 2000



Legend



119,023 - 138,407



154,447 - 174,250



176,202 - 195,976



199,019 - 318,530



360,187 - 478,139



No data available

Conclusion

- Interactive online tools engage students with the census and other statistical information
- Encourage exploration and experimentation.
- Questions?? Ask Walter!



<http://www.library.yorku.ca/LibraryDataServices/>