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# KNOW YOUR BOUNDARIES: OBTAINING SPATIAL DATA

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# Getting Started...

- What kind of data do you want?
  - Depends on your research question
  - American electoral geography offers a host of spaces to examine
  - Each has benefits and drawbacks
    - Scale
    - Data availability



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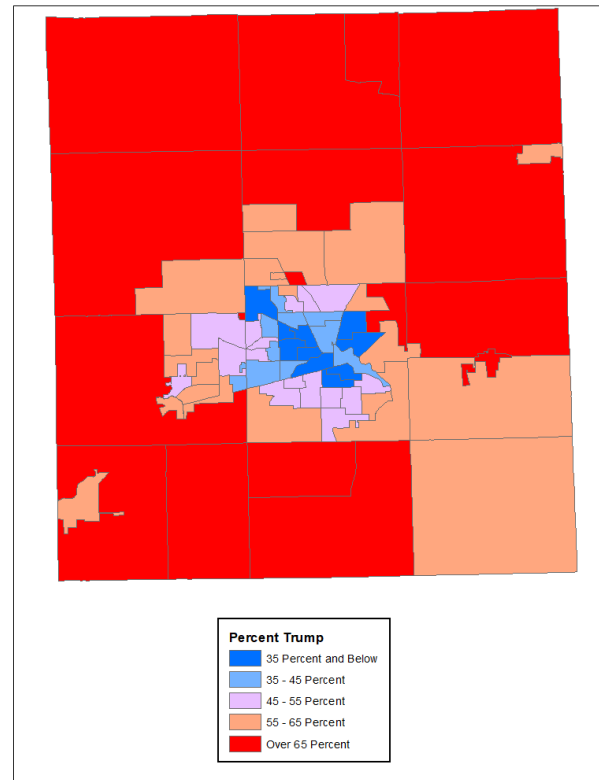
# Datasets

- Census Data: <https://data2.nhgis.org/main>
- Indiana Data: <https://maps.indiana.edu/layerGallery.html>
- <https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/2393.htm>
- Georgia Data: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Joint/reapportionment/en-US/default.aspx>
- [http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/current\\_and\\_past\\_elections\\_results](http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/Elections/current_and_past_elections_results)
- <http://www.healthdata.org/us-health/data-download>



# Precincts

- Smallest Unit of Analysis outside of the individual
  - Decreases (does NOT eliminate) MAUP and ecological problems



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# Precinct Changes

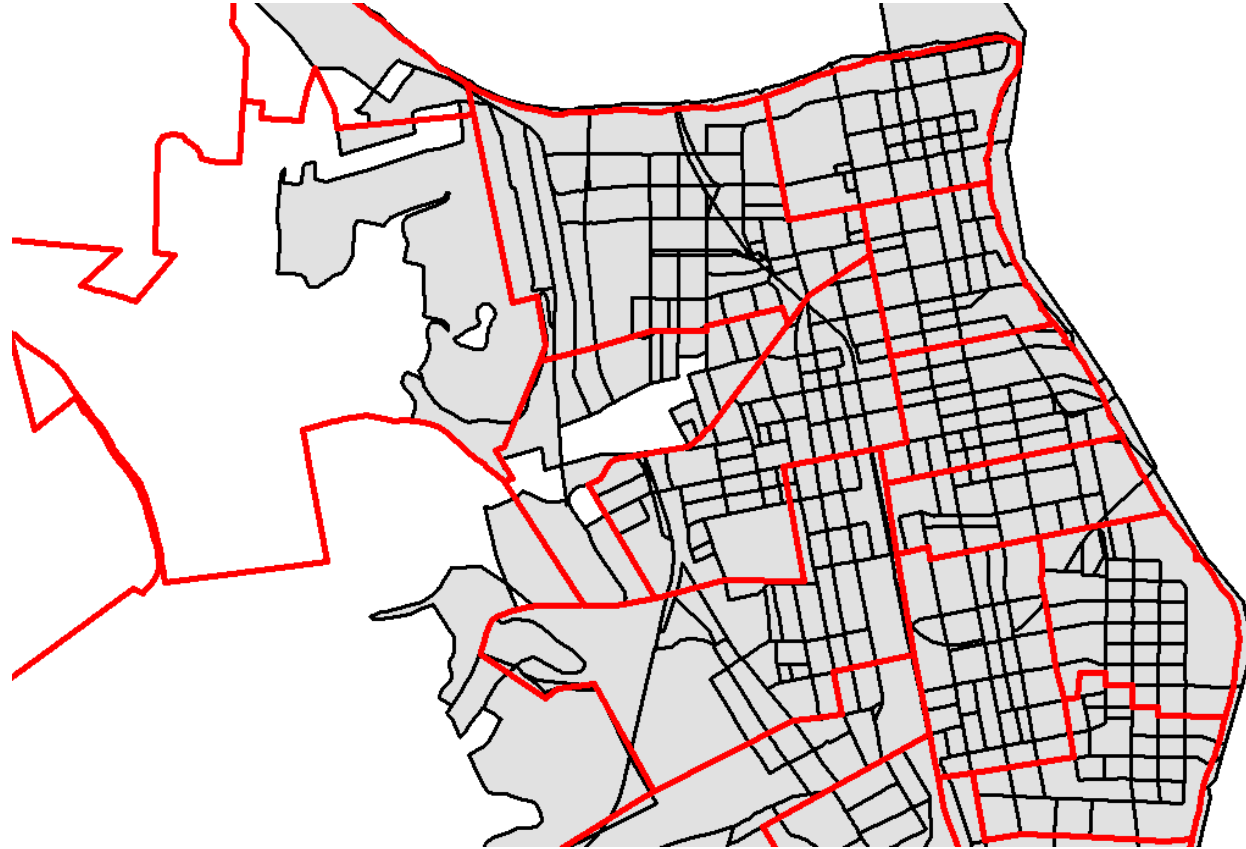
County/Year	1976	Δ 76-80	1980	Δ 80-84	1984	Δ 84-88	1988	Δ 88-92	1992	Δ 92-96	1996	Δ 96-00	2000	Δ 00-04	2004	Δ 04-08	2008
Boone, KY	25	0	25	0	25	11	36	2	38	2	40	12	52	8	60	0	60
Bracken, KY	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	-2	8	0	8	0	8	0	8
Brown, OH	47	-12	35	-1	34	3	37	4	41	0	41	3	44	-9	35	0	35
Butler, OH	135	9	144	33	177	17	194	19	213	37	250	30	280	9	289	9	298
Campbell, KY	90	2	92	0	92	-13	79	1	80	-14	66	0	66	-1	65	1	66
Clermont, OH	134	12	146	14	160	22	182	11	193	3	196	-5	191	0	191	9	200
Dearborn, IN	34	0	34	0	34	0	34	2	36	0	36	9	45	0	45	0	45
Franklin, IN	24	0	24	0	24	0	24	-1	23	0	23	0	23	1	24	0	24
Gallatin, KY	5	3	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8
Grant, KY	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	1	14	3	17	4	21	2	23
Hamilton, OH	945	18	963	10	973	16	989	52	1041	20	1061	-36	1025	-12	1013	-133	880
Kenton, KY	96	0	96	2	98	-1	97	0	97	3	100	6	106	2	108	0	108
Ohio, IN	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	1	9	0	9	0	9	2	11	0	11
Pendleton, KY	12	0	12	0	12	-1	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	1	12	0	12
Warren, OH	78	4	82	7	89	24	113	5	118	11	129	11	140	17	157	15	172
<b>Total</b>	1656	36	1692	65	1757	78	1835	96	1931	61	1992	33	2025	22	2047	-97	1950



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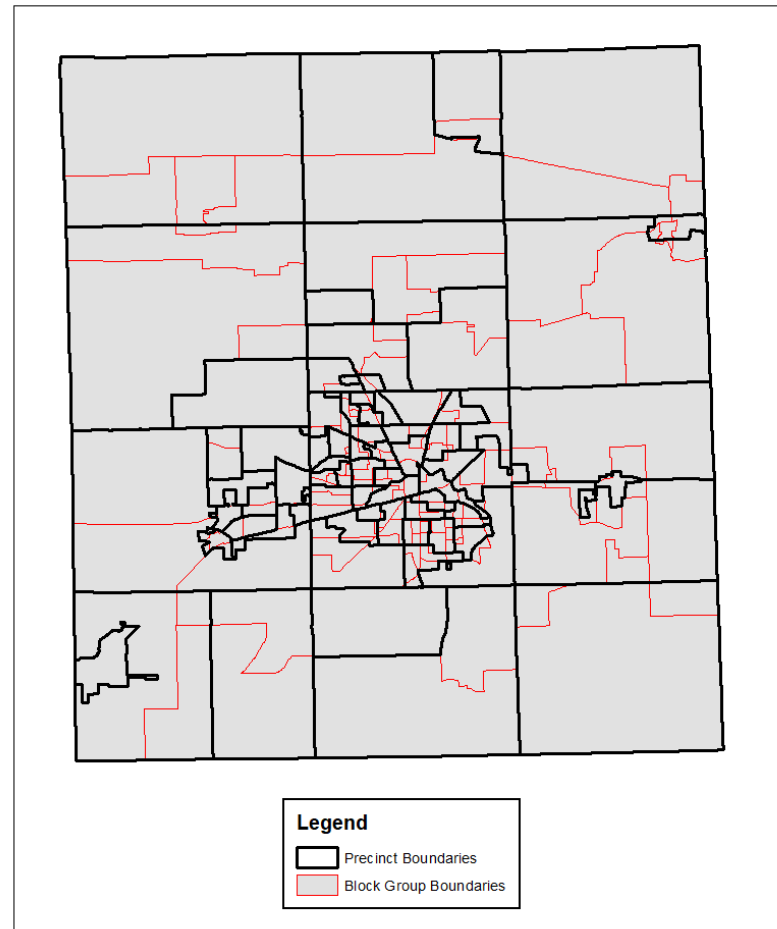
# Demographics in Precincts



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# Demographics and Precincts



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# Conclusion

- Be sure you are using the right unit of analysis to examine spatial phenomenon
- Each bring benefits and drawbacks
- Precincts are great for examining spatial data but are problematic



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# THANK YOU!

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