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286251419734 212569321437
315478241893 587121934588
928386935389 789675793121
347914272934 142392239834
152842148761 128978718289
69148723725 7476566465
536259352 782352327
719572938 4457678953
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325214771 741 1441539888
841982986 346197316
838189157 55 39484354
19254246121 12965825272
684721321491 336121461387
563876745842 842865258719
729193639456 417649172642
387429156278 679316431925
593872461962 951479254386

IPUMS NHGIS

How to Use the NHGIS Data Finder

March 2026



IPUMS

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286251419734 212569321437
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729193639456 417649172642
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593872461962 951479254386

Overview

The [NHGIS Data Finder](#) lets you explore what's available in NHGIS, select any data tables or GIS files you'd like to get, and then customize, request, and download a data extract. There are *three main steps*:

1 Apply Filters & Select Data

On the first page of the Data Finder, browse available tables and GIS files, applying different data filters to narrow your search.

When you find tables or GIS files you would like to download, add them to the Data Cart.

2 Select Data Options

Next, on the second page, you can select **geographic levels**, **years**, **breakdowns**, and **geographic extents** for any tables in your cart. The options will vary for different sources and types of data. You may also choose to remove tables or GIS files from the Data Cart.

3 Review & Submit Data Request

On the third page, choose the output file structure for any data tables you have selected. You may also enter a description for this request. Then submit it to the NHGIS extract system to begin processing.

Finally, you'll proceed to your Extracts History page, which lists all the data requests you've ever made. When NHGIS has finished processing your new data extract, a link will appear here to download it. You can also use this page to resubmit or revise any of your past extracts.

```
4786138828821034072848861
286251419734 212569321437
31678241898 587121934598
92838893389 769875793121
347914272928 14239239824
152842148761 128978718289
89148732 77 1838465
536259352 78232227
7195725144 47878852
325216712 154138888
8419829867 346197316
83818915145 53 1848484
192842420121 12868825272
88427321491 336121461587
86887674842 84286528719
72918383458 41764917242
387429154278 879318431925
892724819621951479254388
```

1

Apply Filters & Select Data

Explore what's available & look for data of interest, narrowing the scope by selecting any number of filters...

There are four filter types, which you can use in any combination. Click on a green filter button to open a window where you can select filters of interest, such as those listed in this image:

APPLY FILTERS ? HOW TO USE THE DATA FINDER

- GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS** ← County, Census Tract, Block, Congressional District, ...
- YEARS** ← 1870, 2010, 5-year periods used by the American Community Survey, ...
- TOPICS** ← Total Population, Race, Educational Attainment, Housing Tenure, ...
- DATASETS** ← 1870 Agriculture Data, 2010 Summary File 1, 2023 ACS 1-Year Data, ...

SELECT DATA ?

51509 SOURCE TABLES | 389 TIME SERIES TABLES | 2032 GIS FILES

PAGE 1 OF 2,576 | 20 | VIEW 1 - 20 OF 51,509

POPULARITY	TABLE NAME	UNIVERSE	CLASSIFICATIONS	YEAR - DATASET	BREAKDOWNS
+	NT1. <u>Total Population</u>	Persons		1790_cPop	
+	NT2. <u>Urban Population (Incorporated Places 2,500 and Over)</u>	Urban Persons (Incorporated Places 2,500 and Over)		1790_cPop	

Use multiple filters to hone in on specific data of interest. For example, if you select only the Geographic Levels filter of *Census Tract*, you will see there are thousands of tables and dozens of GIS files that are available at the tract level. If you also select the 1970 Years filter, it greatly reduces the number of available tables and files...

APPLY FILTERS ? HOW TO USE THE DATA FINDER

- GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS** ✓ TRACT
- YEARS** ✓ 1970
- TOPICS**
- DATASETS**

RESET FILTERS

SELECT DATA ?

949 SOURCE TABLES | 58 TIME SERIES TABLES | 2 GIS FILES

PAGE 1 OF 48 | 20 | VIEW 1 - 20 OF 949

POPULARITY	TABLE NAME	UNIVERSE	CLASSIFICATIONS	YEAR - DATASET	BREAKDOWNS
+	NT1. <u>Sex by Race</u>	Persons	Race (9), Sex (2)	1970_Cnt2	Spatial
+	NT2A. <u>Sex by Age</u>	Persons	Age (10), Sex (2)	1970_Cnt2	Spatial
+	NT2B. <u>Sex by Age</u>	White Persons	Age (10), Sex (2)	1970_Cnt2	Spatial

Question-mark icons link to additional information

478138828821034072848861
286251419734 212569321437
3167824188 38712193458
8288883388 768875793121
3478142788 1423923884
15284214878 12894718289
88148732 77 888848
58259352 78232227
719372514 47878252
525214712 54138888
841882888 346197316
83818515 53 7884884
18284248121 12888825272
8842732148 318121481887
888878748842 842885288718
72918381848 417849172842
387429158278 879318431925
893874818828951479254888

*Use the controls in the “Select Data” grid to learn more about available data.
Add any data of interest to the Data Cart to start creating a request.*

The **Select Data grid** lists the NHGIS data tables and GIS files that are available to download, limited by any data filters you’ve applied.

SELECT DATA ?						
949 SOURCE TABLES		59 TIME SERIES TABLES		2 GIS FILES		
PAGE 1 OF 3				VIEW 1 - 20 OF 59		
POPULARITY	SEQUENCE	TABLE NAME	GEOGRAPHIC INTEGRATION	YEARS	GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS	
	100.02	AV0 . <u>Total Population</u>	<u>Nominal</u>	1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, ACS 5-year periods 2006-2024	<u>NATION, REGION, DIVISION,</u> <u>STATE, COUNTY, TRACT,</u> <u>CTY, SUB, PLACE</u>	
	102.02	AV1 . <u>Persons by Sex [2]</u>	<u>Nominal</u>	1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, ACS 5-year periods 2006-2024	<u>NATION, REGION, DIVISION,</u> <u>STATE, COUNTY, TRACT,</u> <u>CTY, SUB, PLACE</u>	

Click on the tabs at the top of the grid to see different data types:

- **SOURCE TABLES** supply summary statistics from a single source census or program. NHGIS organizes source tables into datasets. For more information, see the [Overview of NHGIS Datasets](#).
- **TIME SERIES TABLES** are designed by NHGIS to link together statistics from multiple years. For more information, see the [Time Series Tables documentation](#).
- **GIS FILES** give the geographic locations of census reporting areas for mapping and spatial analysis. For more information, see the [GIS Files documentation](#).

Other grid controls:

- To sort results, click on a field name at the top of any column
 - **Tip:** To see which tables and files are requested most often, click on POPULARITY
- To get more information about the available data, click on any underlined text
- To see more results, use the page controls at the top or bottom of the grid

Selecting data to download:

- To add a table or file to your Data Cart, click the plus symbol next to that item
- To remove a table or file, click on the green check mark for that item in the Select Data grid, or click on **SHOW SELECTIONS** in the Data Cart (at the top of the page) and deselect the item in the listing there
- To remove all selected data, click on **CLEAR** in the Data Cart

DATA CART → CLEAR X

4 SOURCE TABLES
2 TIME SERIES TABLES
2 GIS FILES

SHOW SELECTIONS ← → CONTINUE

When you’re satisfied with your selections, click on **CONTINUE** in the Data Cart to proceed to the Data Options.

```

4786138928821634072848861
286251419734 212569321437
3167241888 587121534598
92886893389 769875793121
34791272928 12329239624
152842148761 128978718289
89148732 78 78868465
536259352 76232327
719572514 47878252
525216712 154139898
841982986 346197316
4381891514 53 78464804
192842428121 12868825272
68427321491 318121461587
8687674842 84286528719
72918303458 417649172642
387429154278 879316431925
89387461962091479254388
  
```

2 Select Data Options

*Review and adjust options for any tables in your Data Cart.
Remove any data no longer wanted.*

The Data Options page provides a summary of the data that you've added to your Data Cart. If you have any tables in your cart (**Source Tables**, **Time Series Tables**, or both), you can use the controls here to select the *geographic levels*, *years*, *breakdowns*, and *geographic extents* for your table data. You may also deselect tables to remove them from the Data Cart.

For **GIS Files**, you may review the files in your cart and deselect any you would like to remove.

DATA OPTIONS ?

SOURCE TABLES

SELECT GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS
SELECT GEOGRAPHIC EXTENTS

DATASET	TABLES	GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS	BREAKDOWNS	YEARS	GEOGRAPHIC EXTENTS
1970 Census: Count 2 - 100% Data [Tracts, Urban Areas, Metro Areas, etc.]	1 table	1 of 11	Spatial: 1 of 15	1 of 1	Extent: <u>Minnesota</u>
2020 Census: DHC - P & H Tables [Blocks & Larger Areas]	3 tables	1 of 164	Spatial: 1 of 37	1 of 1	

TIME SERIES TABLES

SELECT YEARS
SELECT GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS

TABLE	GEOGRAPHIC INTEGRATION	YEARS	GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AV0 - Total Population	Nominal	2 of 20 1970, 2020	1 of 5 Census Tract
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P08 - Persons by Age (2): Children and Adults	Nominal	2 of 20 1970, 2020	1 of 5 Census Tract

GIS FILES

YEAR	GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL	EXTENT	BASIS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1970	Census Tract	United States	2008 TIGER/Line+
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2020	Census Tract	United States	2020 TIGER/Line+

Options for Table Data

- **Geographic Levels:** Most tables are available for multiple levels—states, counties, census tracts, *etc.* To specify the levels for which you'd like to get data, click on the green **SELECT GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS** button(s) or click on the underlined text in the GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS column(s). You can choose to get the same levels for all tables or select different levels for different datasets and time series tables. If you had any Geographic Level filters selected when you added the tables to your Cart, those levels will be preselected here.
- **Years:** Year selection is available for all Time Series Tables, but for Source Tables, it is only available for datasets that provide separate data for multiple years (*e.g.*, County Business Patterns). For Time Series Tables, if you had any Year filters selected when you added the tables to your Cart, those years will be preselected here.

More options on next page...

4798138928821034072846861
286251419734 212569321437
8167241888 587121934598
92886893388 769875793121
34791427398 12399239824
152842148781 128978718289
89148732 77 78868468
536259352 782352327
719572514 47878922
525216712 154139888
841982986 346197316
836189151 53 78484804
192842428121 12968825272
684721321491 138121461587
868876748842 84286528719
729193830456 417469172642
387429158278 879316431925
892874619820951479254388

When applicable, select additional breakdowns or limit your tables to specific geographic extents

Options for Table Data (continued)

- Breakdowns:** Breakdowns are additional categories of data that are available for all tables in a dataset. For example, for the 1980–2010 censuses, the SF2, STF2, SF4, and STF4 datasets each have two types of breakdowns: a Spatial breakdown and a Race/Ethnicity breakdown. When you request tables from these datasets, you can get each table’s data not only for the total population (the default breakdown) but also for subgroups distinguished by geographic (e.g., urban or rural) and/or racial/ethnic (e.g., White or Hispanic) characteristics.

Typically, datasets provide breakdown data only for areas where a subgroup’s population exceeds a minimum threshold. For example, in 2010 SF2, if the population of a subgroup is below 100 in an area, then there are no data records for that subgroup for that area.

SOURCE TABLES				
DATASET	TABLES	GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS	BREAKDOWNS	YEARS
1980 Census: STF 2b - 100% Detailed Data with Race/Ethnicity Breakdown	1 table	1 of 15	Race/Ethnicity: 2 of 27 Spatial: 1 of 19	1 of 1
2010 Census: SF 2a - PCT & HCT Tables [Tracts & Larger Areas]	1 table	1 of 104	Race/Ethnicity: 3 of 330 Spatial: 1 of 54	1 of 1

- Geographic Extents:** You can select geographic extents only if you’ve selected a geographic level that nests within states (e.g., counties, census tracts). For levels that span across state boundaries (e.g., urban areas, ZIP Code Tabulation Areas), your requested table data will include all areas. Extent selections apply to all tables in your cart, including both Source Tables and Time Series Tables.

When you open the window to **SELECT GEOGRAPHIC EXTENTS**, colored circles indicate the availability of each extent given your current selections for Source Tables and Time Series Tables. A half circle indicates that an extent is available for some of your selections but not others.

When you’re satisfied with your selections, click on **CONTINUE** in the Data Cart.

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286251419734 212569321437
81678241888 587121934586
82888883388 769875793121
3491827288 12392338834
152842148781 128978718289
88148732 77 7888488
586259352 762352827
719572514 47578852
525216712 14138888
841982886 346197316
8381851514 58 7884884
182842428121 12888825272
884251321481 138121481587
888878748842 842888588718
728183884842 417489172842
887425158278 879318431925
898724818828951479254888

3 Review & Submit Data Request

Specify the output structure & layout for table data files

On the Review & Submit page, if you have any tables in your Data Cart, you may choose the structure and layout of the output table data files here.

TABLE FILE STRUCTURE

All NHGIS tables are provided in *comma-separated values* (CSV) files. Each CSV file contains a header row of field names and is accompanied by a separate “codebook” file that describes the content of the data file. You may also choose to include a second header row that contains a full description of each field. This can be helpful for interpreting data when using a spreadsheet tool like Microsoft Excel, but be aware that other types of software may not be able to properly handle a second header row. Another option is to get “control files” that you can use to read the data into the SPSS, SAS or Stata software packages.

BREAKDOWN/DATA TYPE LAYOUT

If you selected multiple breakdowns for any source tables in Step 2, or if your request includes any tables from the American Community Survey (ACS), you will be able to choose whether to combine all of the breakdowns (*e.g.*, urban and rural) and data types (the estimates and margins of error in ACS datasets) into a single data file or to separate them into distinct files. The default is to combine them all in one file.

More options on next page...

The screenshot shows the 'REVIEW AND SUBMIT' page with the following options:

- TABLE FILE STRUCTURE** (Applies to source tables and time series tables)
 - Standard structure:**
 - Data in CSV (comma-separated values) format
 - One header row with field names
 - One codebook for each data file
 - Add a **second header row** with full field descriptions
 - Add **control files** to read the data into SAS, SPSS or Stata
- SOURCE TABLES**
 - 1 source table
- BREAKDOWN/DATA TYPE LAYOUT**
 - Combine different breakdowns/data types into a single data file
 - Separate different breakdowns/data types into distinct data files
- TIME SERIES TABLES**
 - 1 time series table
- TIME SERIES TABLE LAYOUT**
 - Time varies by column
 - Time varies by row
 - Time varies by file
- GIS FILES**
 - None selected
- DESCRIPTION**
 - county level, Labor Force data and GIS file

A green **SUBMIT** button is located at the bottom of the form.

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286251419734 212568321437
31678241888 587121934588
82888883388 768875793121
34781272828 12389238824
152842148781 128978718289
89148732 77 8888488
586259352 78232327
719372354 47878822
5212167212 154188888
841882888 346197316
83818915148 58 7884884
18284248121 12888823272
88421321481 38121481887
888878748842 842888588718
72818383488 417848172842
887429158278 879318431928
898724818828951479284888

Finalize selections & submit the data request. Log in if you haven't yet.

TIME SERIES TABLE LAYOUT

Time series tables include data for multiple areas over multiple times. You may choose one of three options for how data for different times will be arranged in output files:

1. *Time varies by column* puts data for different times in separate columns within one file. The rows correspond to geographic units, and the columns correspond to particular times within a time series. For example, data for Chicago is in one row with 2010 and 2020 Total Population counts in separate columns.
2. *Time varies by row* puts data for different times in separate rows within one file. Each row represents a single geographic unit at a single time (e.g., Chicago in 2010 or Chicago in 2020), and each column corresponds to a single time series (e.g., Total Population).
3. *Time varies by file* puts data for different times in separate files. Within each file, the rows correspond to geographic units, and each column corresponds to a single time series.

DESCRIPTION

You may optionally enter a description for this data extract. The description will appear on your personal Extracts History page along with descriptions for any other extracts you've made. If you briefly note the data types, geographic levels, years, extents, and/or subject matter included in each extract, this information could help you later to find a past extract to revise or resubmit.

Submission & Authentication

Finally, when you are satisfied with your choices, click on **CONTINUE** to submit your request.

If you aren't logged in, you'll be prompted to do so now. If you don't yet have an IPUMS account, you can create one through the link at the bottom right of the login page. Registration is completely free of charge, as are all IPUMS datasets.

IPUMS

LOG IN TO IPUMS NHGIS

EMAIL ADDRESS
Enter email

PASSWORD
Enter password

SIGN IN

IPUMS uses a **common user management system** for most of its data collections: IPUMS International, IPUMS USA, IPUMS CPS, IPUMS HigherEd, NHGIS, IPUMS Health Surveys, IPUMS Time Use, IPUMS PMA, and IHGIS.

If you already have an account for any of the above data collections, sign in on the left side of this page.

If you do not have an account for any of the IPUMS data collections listed above, you may [create one here](#). Note that IPUMS users who have only registered accounts with IPUMS DHS or IPUMS MICS will need to [create a general IPUMS account](#) to access the [IPUMS user forum](#).

HELP

> [Forgot your password?](#)

> [Create an account](#) — only for users who do not have an IPUMS account

4786138828821634072848861
286251419734 212568321437
315478241888 587121534598
82838893388 769875793121
34781427288 14239238824
152842148781 128978718289
88148732 787 8888485
586259352 786232227
719572514 47878822

525216712 8 154133888
841982986 346197316
836189151 53 7884848
182842428121 12868825272
884251321481 318121481887
888878748842 842885288718
728183838458 417489172842
887429158278 879318431925
898724818628951479254888

Download

Use the Extracts History page to see the status of your extract requests, download data files, and revise or resubmit past requests

After you've submitted a data request—and you're logged in—NHGIS will begin processing your data extract, and your browser will open your Extracts History page.

IPUMS NHGIS | NHGIS GEOMARKER NATIONAL HISTORICAL GIS
HOME | SELECT DATA | MY DATA | SUPPORT

CREATE ANOTHER EXTRACT

EXTRACTS HISTORY ?

NHGIS will send you an email when your data extract is ready to download. It may take a few minutes. Large requests may take longer.

EXTRACT #	DATE CREATED	STATUS ?	DOWNLOAD DATA	REVISE EXTRACT	DESCRIPTION (CLICK TO EDIT)
2	2025-Feb-27	PROCESSING		REVISE	county level, Labor Force data and GIS file
2	2025-Feb-27	COMPLETED	TABLES ↓ 4.97 MB GIS FILES ↓ 3 MB	REVISE	county level, Labor Force data and GIS file

This page lists every NHGIS extract you've requested and indicates the current status of each. When you first arrive, your last extract's status is typically **PROCESSING** (meaning it's being constructed by the NHGIS extract system), or it may be **QUEUED** (waiting for NHGIS to complete other requests). A spinning circle indicates that NHGIS is working to complete the request.

When the processing is complete, the spinning circle will change to a checkmark in a green circle, and a green button will appear in the **DOWNLOAD DATA** column for each main data type in your extract: **TABLES** and **GIS FILES**. (If you requested only one of these types, there will be only one button.) To begin downloading your data, simply click the button(s).

NHGIS processes most extracts in under a minute each, but processing time varies with extract size, and large extracts can take several minutes or longer. NHGIS also sends you an email when your extract is ready, so if your extract is taking a long time, you needn't continue rechecking this page to see if it's done.

You can return to your Extracts History page anytime by clicking on the **MY DATA** link in the top menu of an NHGIS web page, or you can use the link in the email that notifies you that your extract is ready. An extract will be available for download for two weeks after you request it. For older extracts, this page provides a **RESUBMIT** option that you can use to regenerate the extract files. Every extract also has a **REVISE** option that sends you back into the Data Finder with all the selections that you'd originally made for the extract. You can then add to, remove, or adjust any of those selections before submitting a new request.

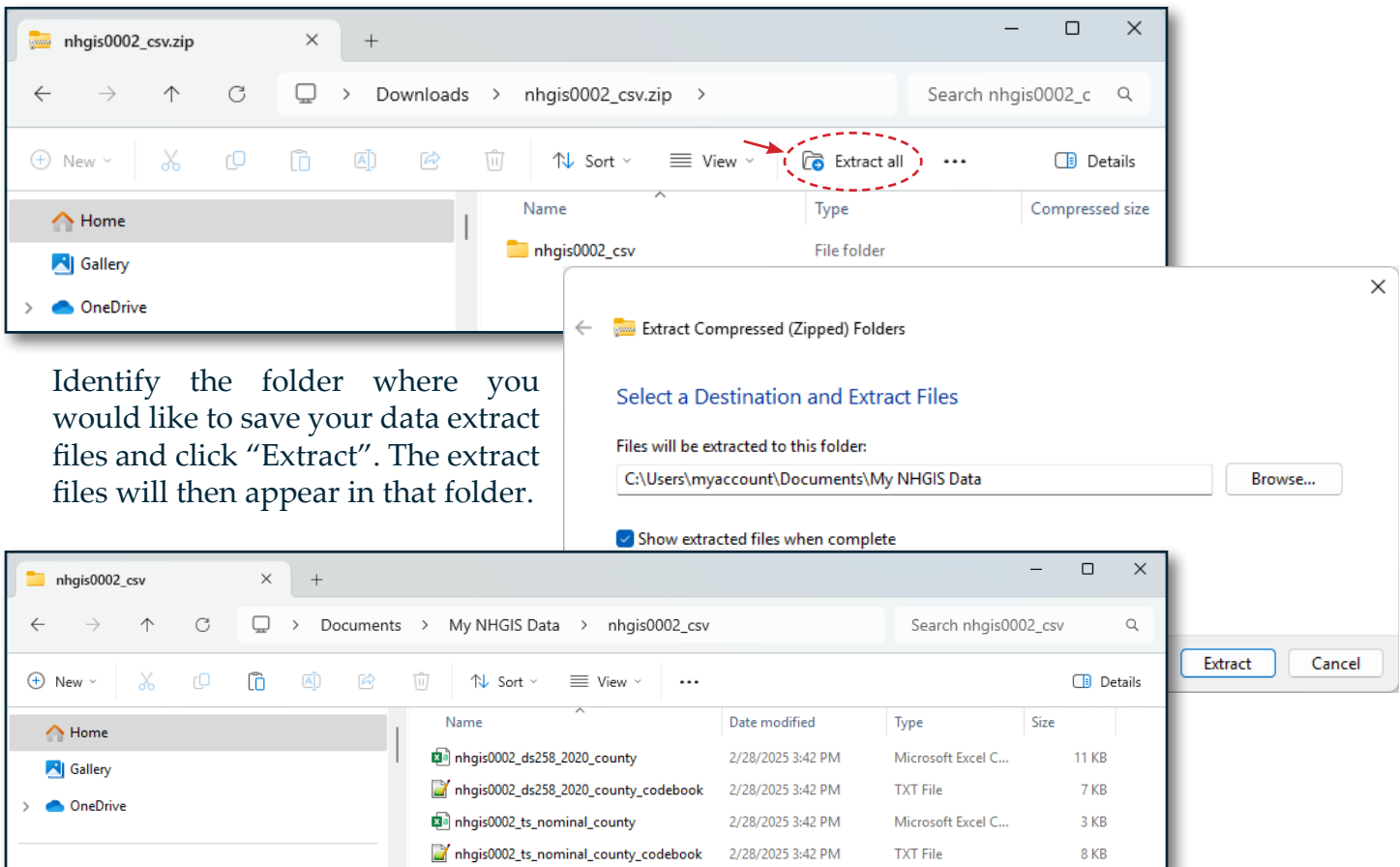
47813882883163472848861
286251419734 212569321437
3167241888 587121584598
82838893388 769875793121
347918272938 12329239824
152842148781 128978718289
8914872378 77 8388465
536259352 76232227
719572514 47578922
525216712 14133888
841982986 346197316
83818915145 53 7848454
182424248121 12868825272
88427321481 138121481587
8887674842 84286528719
72918383458 417649172642
387429158278 879318431925
8928748198289147925488

Unzip & Open

NHGIS data extracts consist of multiple files, including table data files, codebook files (which describe the contents of the table files), and shapefiles (which is the format NHGIS uses for its GIS files). NHGIS packages all of an extract's files in one or two ZIP files: one ZIP file containing any table data along with corresponding codebooks, and one ZIP file containing any GIS files.

Both Windows and Mac systems allow you to open a ZIP file and view its contents. To work directly with the files within a ZIP file, you may first need to “unzip” the ZIP file.

To do this in Windows, first find and open the ZIP file. (Your browser may open it automatically after it's downloaded. If not, you may be able to find it through your browser's “Downloads” or in your Windows “Downloads” folder.) Then click on “Extract all”.



Because the GIS files are in a shapefile format, and each single “shapefile” is composed of multiple data files, the GIS files are double zipped, with each shapefile individually zipped within the main extract ZIP file. Make sure to unzip all files before using them in a GIS.

You can now open your data and begin your analysis!

If you ever have any questions, please visit the [Technical Support page](#) for contact options. IPUMS has a user support team that is happy to help.

4786138928821834072848661
286251419734 212569321437
3187241898 587121934396
92836893389 769875793121
347914273928 14239239824
152842148761 128976718289
69148732 757 78386465
536259352 762352327
7195725144 447578822
325216712 44183888
841982986 346197316
836189151 58 38464387
182842428121 12868825272
68427321491 318121461587
58387674842 842865258719
72918383456 41746917242
387429158278 879316431925
89387461962095147925488