

**LEP Data Resources and Instructions Guide**

**Methods for Determining the Concentration and Characteristics of  
Limited English Proficient (LEP) Communities**

4/20/2021

LEP Committee, Title VI Interagency Working Group

# Summary

This data resources and instructions guide delineates three methods for locating demographic data for LEP communities in the United States. Special attention is paid to designing multi-variable models and utilizing different geographical data sets in order to formulate a more precise representation of groups.



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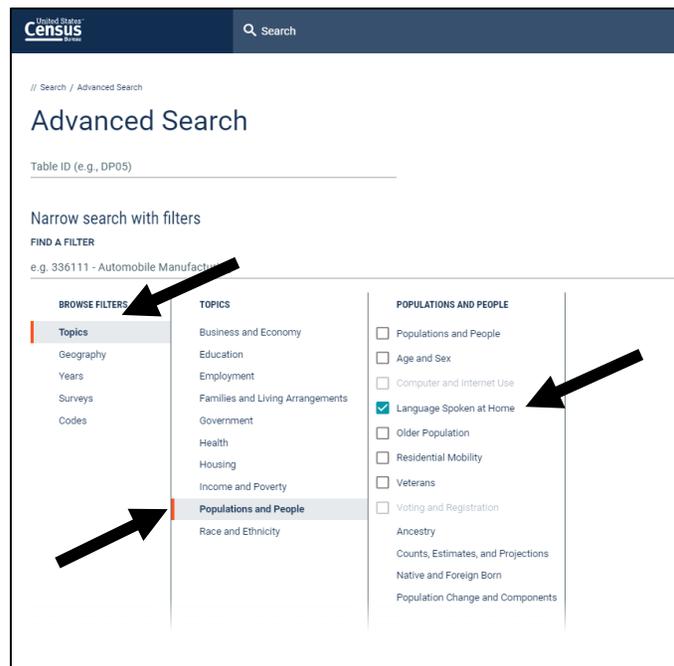
## Resource Sheet for Data.census.gov

Data.census.gov allows users to search massive amounts of data at multiple levels of geography over time. The American Community Survey (ACS) collects demographic variables such as: age, race, national origin, gender, marital status, ancestry, and **language**.

This resource sheet is designed to help Federal agencies and other service providers determine the concentration of individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) in a given geographic area using data.census.gov. Knowing the languages spoken by LEP individuals in an area may help agencies understand the communities that they serve and allow them to leverage resources to meet the language needs of the LEP public.

### How to access Demographic Data using Data.census.gov

1. Go to [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov). (For more information on the ACS, visit [census.gov/programs-surveys/acs](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs).)
2. The best way to get to the right data is to type “B16001” into the prompt. This will lead to Table B16001, which tabulates English proficiency numbers by language spoken at home for those age 5 or more. (Those who “speak English less than ‘very well’” and speak a language other than English at home are considered LEP.) The data is available in both 1-year and 5-year ACS estimates for different years, using the menu directly under the table title. Note that 1-year data is more current, but 5-year data is more reliable. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/estimates.html>.
3. You can find additional language data by clicking on the “Search” bar at the top of the page, then selecting the “Advanced Search” from the drop-down list.
  - a. Search using selection options.
    - i. Selecting Language Spoken at Home: Using the menu on the left called “Browse Filters,” select “Topics.” Then select “Populations & People.” On the new menu, click “Language Spoken at Home,” and you will see the selected filter appear at the bottom of the window. Then click “Search” at the bottom of the page. (See screen shot)



- ii. From that page, you will have to select “View All Tables,” found at the bottom of the first sub-header labelled “Tables” to arrive at the page with all of the language tables.

21.9% ±0.1% Language Other Than English Spoken at Home in United States

Source: 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

Tables

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

Survey/Program: American Community Survey  
Years: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022  
Table: S1401

	Total		Percent		Speak English only or speak English "very well"	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population 5 years and over...	307,531,124	+/-50,059	(X)	(X)	281,865,707	+/-45,736
Speak only English	248,252,456	+/-49,782	79.1%	+/-0.1	(X)	(X)
Speak a language other...	62,288,668	+/-19,867	21.9%	+/-0.1	41,441,231	+/-19,249
Speak a language other...						

CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE BY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

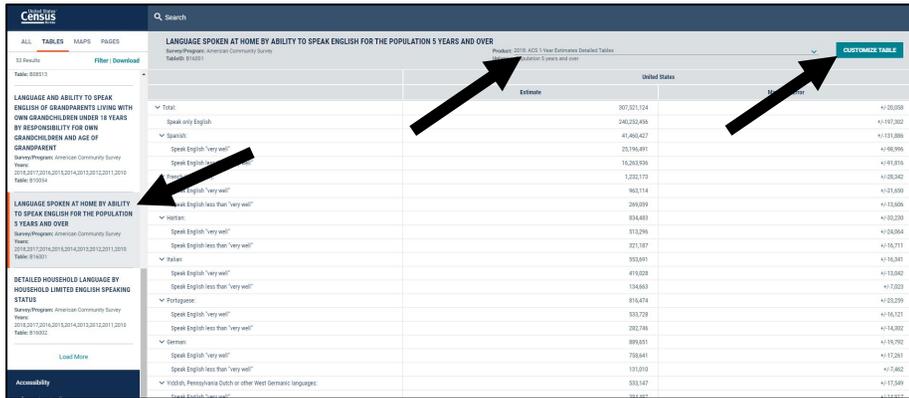
Survey/Program: American Community Survey  
Years: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022  
Table: S1402

LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING HOUSEHOLDS

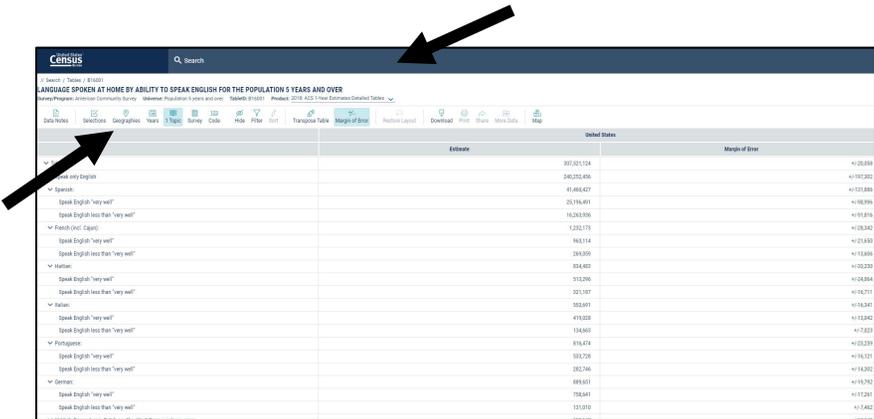
Survey/Program: American Community Survey  
Years: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022  
Table: S1403

[VIEW ALL TABLES \(8\)](#)

iii. From there, scroll down the left menu bar down to the data set you prefer. Again, we suggest the table titled “Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over (Table B16001).” Once you have the correct table, click “customize table” to set the geographic area for your data, or to create a map.

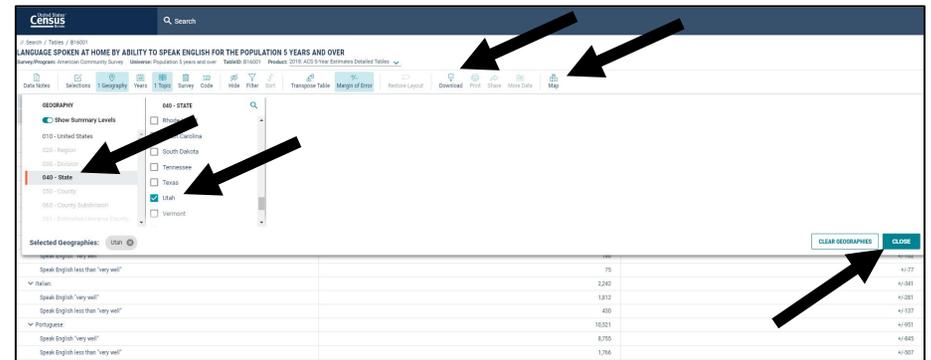


iv. Customizing a table gives you a variety of options, but we are going to focus on setting a smaller geographic area than the default for the entire United States. Before you click the Geo (Geographies) button in the header, you can select from 1-year and 5-year ACS data sets (not all geographic areas are available in the more accurate 5-year ACS).



v. Once you select “Geos” in the menu bar, you can refine your search by clicking on the “Show Summary Levels” switch. Here, we selected “040 – State,” and chose “Utah” from the next list. Click “Close” and you will have your table of LEP populations in Utah.

- 1) From there you can download this data (by clicking the “Download” button), or apply it to a map (by selecting the “Map” button) The mapping function, though limited, allows you to examine and compare geographical areas.
- 2) Helpful Geography searches include “040 – State,” “330 – Combined Statistical Area,” “500 – Congressional District,” and “795 – Public Use Microdata Area.” Definitions are provided below.
- 3) Please note that the tables include people who “Speak only English” and people who “Speak English very well.”



b. Here are a few examples of tables that can be made with the B16001 data set that illustrate the different geographic areas that can be studied.

Definitions of Geographic Terms:

330 – Combined Statistical Area: a combination of adjacent metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas that reflect social and economic connection.

795 – Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA): a statistical geographic area that contains at least 100,000 people and is usually geographically contiguous.

**Example #1:**

**Variables:** Topic (language) and Geography/**Table:** Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over (B16001)

**Congressional District:** Congressional District 2 (116th Congress), Utah  
**Product:** 2018 ACS 5-year estimates

The screenshot shows the 'LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME BY ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER' table for Congressional District 2 (116th Congress), Utah. The table lists various language categories and their corresponding population estimates.

Congressional District 2 (116th Congress), Utah	
Estimate	
Total:	696,581
Speak only English	580,615
Spanish:	80,078
Speak English "very well"	52,006
Speak English less than "very well"	28,072
French (incl. Cajun):	1,885
Speak English "very well"	1,620
Speak English less than "very well"	265
Haitian:	8
Speak English "very well"	8
Speak English less than "very well"	0
Italian:	748
Speak English "very well"	522
Speak English less than "very well"	226

**Example #2:**

**Variables:** Topic (language) and Geography/**Table:** Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over (B16001)

**PUMA:** Salt Lake County (Northeast) – Salt Lake City (East) PUMA, Utah  
**Product:** 2018 ACS 5-year estimates

This screenshot shows the 'GEOGRAPHY' selection panel in the Census data tool. The '500 - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT' category is selected, and 'Utah' is chosen within that category. The 'UTAH' sub-panel shows 'Congressional District 2 (116th Congress), Utah' is checked.

This screenshot shows the 'GEOGRAPHY' selection panel in the Census data tool. The '795 - PUBLIC USE MICRODATA AREA (PUMA)' category is selected, and 'Salt Lake County (Northeast)-Salt Lake City (East) PUMA, Utah' is chosen within that category. The 'UTAH' sub-panel shows 'Salt Lake County (Northeast)-Salt Lake City (East) PUMA, Utah' is checked.

United States Census Bureau

Search

// Search / Tables / B16001

**LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME BY ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER**

Survey/Program: American Community Survey Universe: Population 5 years and over TableID: B16001 Product: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables

Data Notes Selections 1 Geography Years 1 Topic Survey Code Hide Filter Sort Transpose Table Margin of Error Restore Layout Download

Salt Lake County (Northeast)--Salt Lake City (East) PUMA, Utah	
Estimate	
Total:	114,868
Speak only English	95,940
Spanish:	7,783
Speak English "very well"	5,840
Speak English less than "very well"	1,943
French (incl. Cajun):	507
Speak English "very well"	425
Speak English less than "very well"	82
Haitian:	0
Speak English "very well"	0
Speak English less than "very well"	0
Italian:	286
Speak English "very well"	223
Speak English less than "very well"	63

United States Census Bureau

Search

// Search / Tables / B16001

**LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME BY ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER**

Survey/Program: American Community Survey Universe: Population 5 years and over TableID: B16001 Product: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables

Data Notes Selections 1 Geography Years 1 Topic Survey Code Hide Filter Sort Transpose Table Margin of Error Restore Layout Download

Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem, UT CSA	
Estimate	
Total:	2,299,818
Speak only English	1,926,495
Spanish:	255,441
Speak English "very well"	169,072
Speak English less than "very well"	86,369
French (incl. Cajun):	6,425
Speak English "very well"	5,444
Speak English less than "very well"	981
Haitian:	241
Speak English "very well"	166
Speak English less than "very well"	75
Italian:	2,102
Speak English "very well"	1,702
Speak English less than "very well"	400

**Example #3:**

**Variables:** Topic (language) and Geography/**Table:** Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over (B16001)

Combined Statistical Area: Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem, Utah  
 Product: 2018 ACS 5-year estimates

United States Census Bureau

Search

// Search / Tables / B16001

**LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME BY ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER**

Survey/Program: American Community Survey Universe: Population 5 years and over TableID: B16001 Product: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables

Data Notes Selections Geographies Years 1 Topic Survey Code Hide Filter Sort Transpose Table Margin of Error Restore

**GEOGRAPHY**

Show Summary Levels

- 324 - State-Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Division-County
- 330 - Combined Statistical Area**
- 331 - Combined Statistical Area-State
- 332 - Combined Statistical Area-Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area

**330 - COMBINED STATISTICAL ...**

- Home-Summerville, GA CSA
- Sacramento-Roseville, CA CSA
- Saginaw-Midland-Bay City, MI CSA
- Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem, UT CSA
- San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA CSA
- San Juan-Carolina, PR CSA
- Savannah-Hinesville-Statesboro, GA CSA

Selected Geographies:



## Resource Sheet for the DOJ Language Map App

The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division's Language Map App<sup>1</sup> is available on [www.LEP.gov](http://www.LEP.gov). The Map App is an interactive mapping tool that helps users find out the concentration of, and languages spoken by, LEP individuals in a community. It uses a standard definition of LEP individuals for those who self-identify as speaking English "less than very well" for the population five years or older. The total LEP population equals the sum of all individuals who speak a language other than English and speak English less than "very well." The Map App calculates the share of LEP individuals by tabulating LEP populations as a percentage of the total population of the statistical area.

To see the underlying data, including margins of error, go to [U.S. Census Bureau - ACS 2015 Table: B16001 5-Year Estimate Language Spoken At Home By Ability To Speak English For The Population 5 Years And Over](https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2010/acs/2010-2012/5-year/2010-2012-5-year-estimates-of-the-foreign-born-population-in-the-united-states.html). The Margin of Error information is also downloadable from the Map App website and using the "Download State/County Level Data" buttons. The Margin of Error fields are indicated by the symbol:  $\pm$ .

### How to access LEP Data through the Language Map APP:

- Go to [www.LEP.gov/maps](http://www.LEP.gov/maps). Scroll down to this content:

#### Language Map App

The Civil Rights Division's Language Map App is an interactive mapping tool that helps users find out the concentration of and languages spoken by LEP individuals in a community. Click on your state or county to identify the number or percentage of LEP persons, download language data, or visually display LEP maps for presentations. We encourage users to test the features of the Language Map App and provide [feedback](#) to help us improve functionality.

- [2015 Map App](#)
- [2015 Accessible Version with Downloadable Data](#)
- [Language Map Apps for 2014-2012](#)

- Under the top heading of the page, labelled "Language Map App," there are two ways to view the data: (a) the "Map App" version and (b) the "Accessible Version with Downloadable Data." There are multiple years to choose from, but using the 2015 data will provide the most updated information.
  - To use the Language Map App, click on the box labelled "2015 Map App."

#### Language Map App

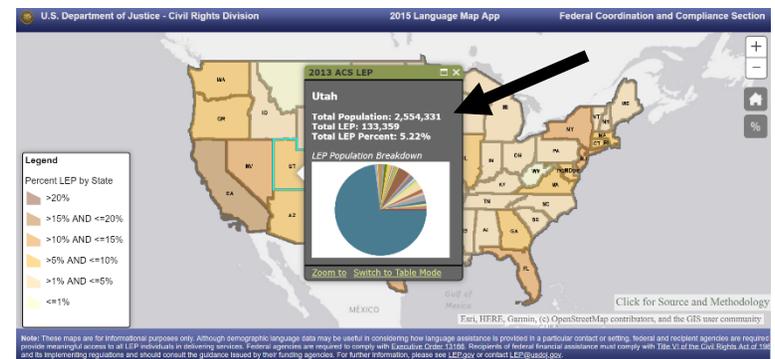
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- [Language Map Apps for 2014-2012](#)

- The national map uses colors to reflect the LEP percentage in each state. For state-level data, click on the state that interests you.



- The initial pie chart provides an overview at the top. You can hover over the pie chart to see the underlying numbers.



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate data.

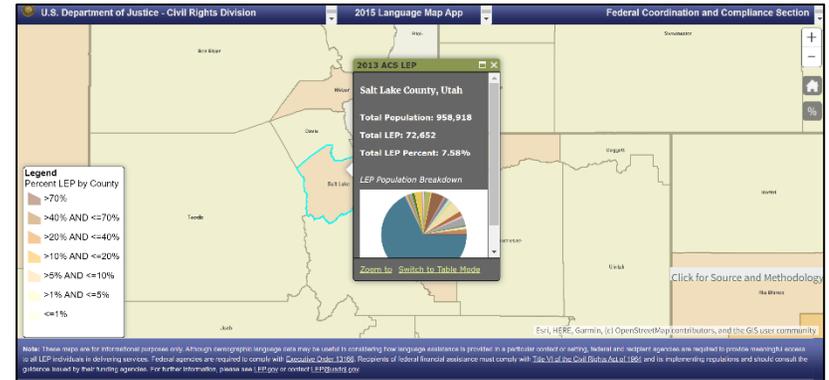
- iii. Or, select “Switch to Table Mode” beneath the pie chart for the breakdown of LEP individuals in the state by language.



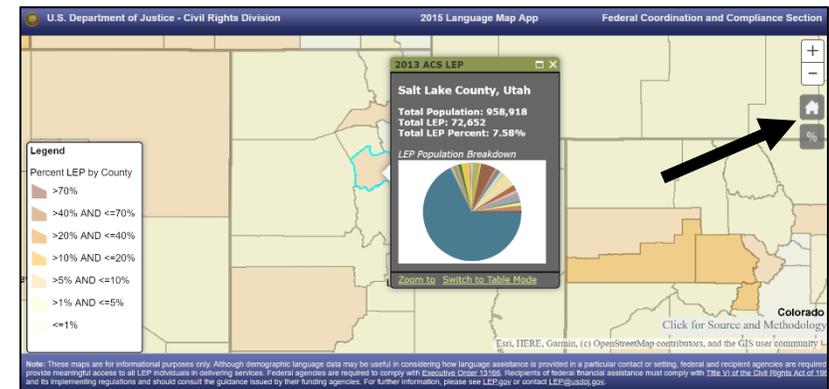
- iv. To see the concentration of LEP individuals by number, instead of percentile, click on the “%” indicator on the right.



- v. To see the concentration of LEP individuals in a county, click “zoom to” below the pie chart, then click on a county to view the chart and table for that county.



- vi. Hit the home button to return to the national map view.



- b. To use the accessible version, click on the box labelled “2015 Accessible Version with Downloadable Data.”

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- [2015 Map App](#)
- [2015 Accessible Version with Downloadable Data](#)
- [Language Map Apps for 2014-2012](#)

- i. To see state-level data, select the state in the dropdown menu at the top of the page and then hit the button labelled “Populate Grid Data.”

U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division  
2015  
Federal Coordination and Compliance Section  
Language Map App

Step 1: Select a State to Display:  
Select a State: Utah

Optional Step 2: Select a County to Display:  
Select a County Name: [Populate Grid Data]

Buttons: Switch to Data Only Mode, Switch to Greyscale Map, Download State Level Data, Download County Level Data, Switch to Raw Number Display

Percent LEP by State Legend:  
 >20%  
 >15% AND <=20%  
 >10% AND <=15%  
 >5% AND <=10%  
 >1% AND <=5%  
 <=1%

No results found.

Note: These maps are for informational purposes only. Although demographic language data may be useful in considering how language assistance is provided in a particular contact or setting, federal and recipient agencies are required to provide meaningful access to all LEP individuals in delivering services. Federal agencies are required to comply with Executive Order 13166. Recipients of federal financial assistance must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations and should consult the guidance issued by their funding agencies. For further information, please see LEP.gov or contact LEP@usdoj.gov.

U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division  
2015  
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Step 1: Select a State to Display:  
Select a State: Utah

Optional Step 2: Select a County to Display:  
Select a County Name: [Populate Grid Data]

Buttons: Switch to Map and Data Mode, Download State Level Data, Download County Level Data, Switch to Greyscale Map, Switch to Percent Display

Geography	FIPS Code	Rank	Total Population	Total LEP	Total LEP Percent	African languages	Arabic	Armenian	Chinese	French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	French Creole
Utah	49	>100,000 AND <=500,000	2554331	133359	5.221	1386	945	197	5547	1004	83
Beaver County, Utah	49001	<=1,000	5942	180	3.029	0	0	0	0	0	0
Box Elder County, Utah	49003	<=1,000	45372	986	2.173	0	0	0	1	15	0
Cache County, Utah	49005	>1,000 AND <=10,000	102994	5119	4.970	20	17	0	457	36	0
Carbon County, Utah	49007	<=1,000	19525	359	1.839	6	0	0	0	0	0
Daguerre County, Utah	49009	<=1,000	776	10	1.289	0	0	0	0	0	0

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- iv. To download the different data sets, in a manageable spreadsheet, click on the corresponding button for either state-level or county-level data.

- ii. This will display both the state and county-level data, in a table on the right. Simply scroll to the right to view the data by language, or click and drag the column headings to compare two languages, or rearrange them for another purpose.

U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division  
2015  
Federal Coordination and Compliance Section  
Language Map App

Step 1: Select a State to Display:  
Select a State: Utah

Optional Step 2: Select a County to Display:  
Select a County Name: [Populate Grid Data]

Buttons: Switch to Map and Data Mode, Download State Level Data, Download County Level Data, Switch to Greyscale Map, Switch to Percent Display

Geography	FIPS Code	Rank	Total Population	Total LEP	Total LEP Percent	African languages	Arabic	Armenian	Chinese	French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	French Creole
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Beaver County, Utah	49001	<=1,000	5942	180	3.029	0	0	0	0	0	0
Box Elder County, Utah	49003	<=1,000	45372	986	2.173	0	0	0	1	15	0
Cache County, Utah	49005	>1,000 AND <=10,000	102994	5119	4.970	20	17	0	457	36	0
Carbon County, Utah	49007	<=1,000	19525	359	1.839	6	0	0	0	0	0
Daguerre County, Utah	49009	<=1,000	776	10	1.289	0	0	0	0	0	0

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U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division  
2015  
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Step 1: Select a State to Display:  
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Daguerre County, Utah	49009	>1% AND <=5%	776	10	1.289

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- iii. To make better use of the side table, click on “Switch to Data Only Mode” button in the blue banner above the table to only view the table.

## EPA EJ Screen Resource Sheet

The EPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) allows users to access high-resolution environmental and demographic information, including linguistic information, for locations in the United States. The EJSCREEN and Mapping Tool enables users to compare their selected areas to the rest of the state or the country. It is a screening tool that examines some of the relevant issues related to environmental justice, subject to important limitations as to what data is included and its accuracy<sup>2</sup>. The information contained in the map is currently pulled from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS).

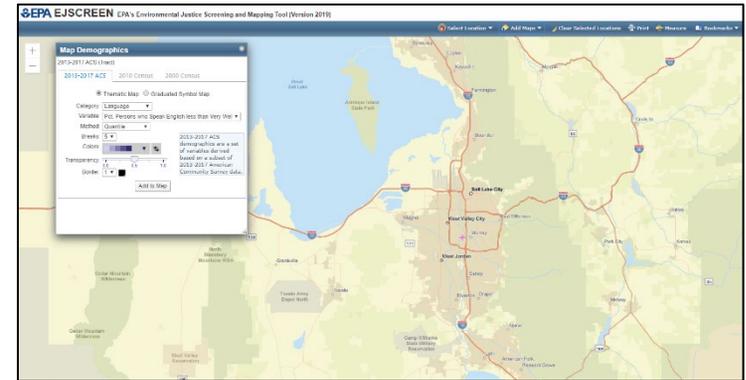
There are six demographic indicators available, each expressed as a percentage: low-income, minority, less than a high school education, people in a block group under the age of 5, people in a block group over the age of 64, and people in a block group living in linguistically isolated households (meaning those in which all members age 14 years and up and are LEP).

### How to access Demographic Data using EJSCREEN:

1. Go to [www.epa.gov/ejscreen](http://www.epa.gov/ejscreen)
2. Click on the “Explore EPA’s environmental justice screening and mapping tool” link to launch EJSCREEN or enter a location in the search box and click “search.”

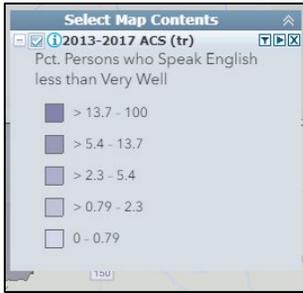
<p><b>What is EJSCREEN?</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">What is EJSCREEN?</a></li><li>• <a href="#">How was It Developed?</a></li><li>• <a href="#">How Does EPA Use It?</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Purposes and Uses</a></li></ul>	<p><b>Learn to Use EJSCREEN</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Learn to Use EJSCREEN</a></li></ul>	<p><b>Launch the Tool</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Launch the EJSCREEN Tool</a></li></ul>
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3. If you did not search from the landing page, use the “Find address or place” search function on the menu bar to identify the location for which you are seeking language data (e.g., Salt Lake County, Utah).

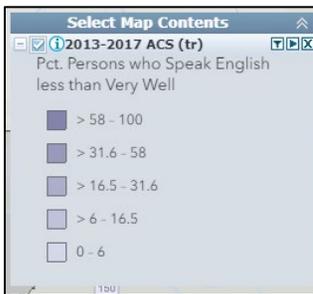


- a. Next, use the “Add Maps” dropdown menu to access the “More Demographics” feature.
- b. Once you have accessed More Demographics, select the desired data options using the menus in the three boxes: Category, Variable, and Method. Explaining the options in reverse order, there are three Methods to map data, each with pros and cons:
  - i. Quantile: A quantile classification is well suited to linearly distributed data. Quantile assigns the same number of data values to each class. There are no empty classes or classes with too few or too many values. Because features are grouped in equal numbers in each class using quantile classification, the resulting map can often be misleading. Similar features can be placed in adjacent classes, or features with widely different values can be put in the same class. You can minimize this distortion by increasing the number of classes.

<sup>2</sup> For an explanation of the limitations on the data, see <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/limitations-and-caveats-using-ejscreen>.

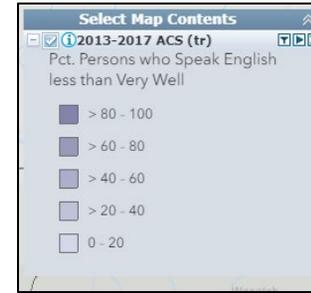


- ii. Natural break classes are based on natural groupings inherent in the data. Class breaks are identified that best group similar values and that maximize the differences between classes. The features are divided into classes whose boundaries are set where there are relatively big differences in the data values.

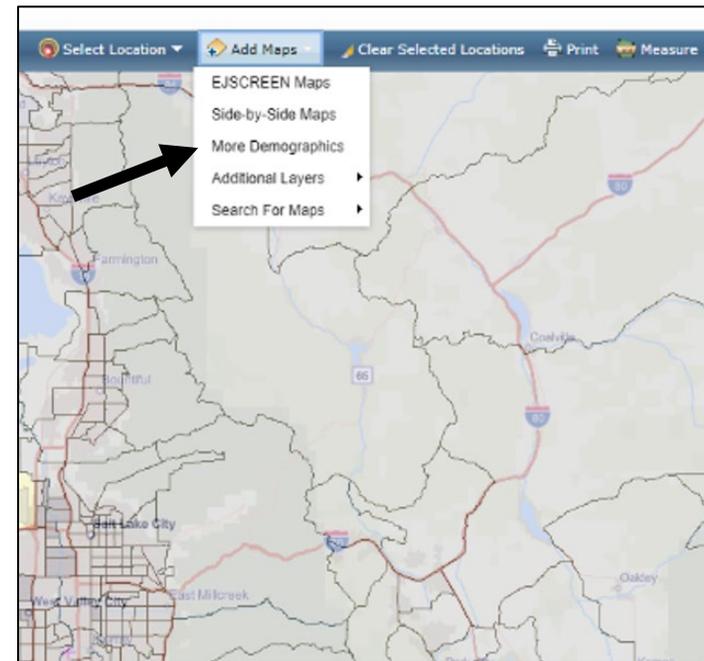


- iii. Equal interval divides the range of attribute values into equal-sized subranges. Equal interval is best applied to familiar data ranges, such as percentages and temperature. This method emphasizes the amount of an attribute value relative to other values.

Pick Equal Interval to follow the example below.

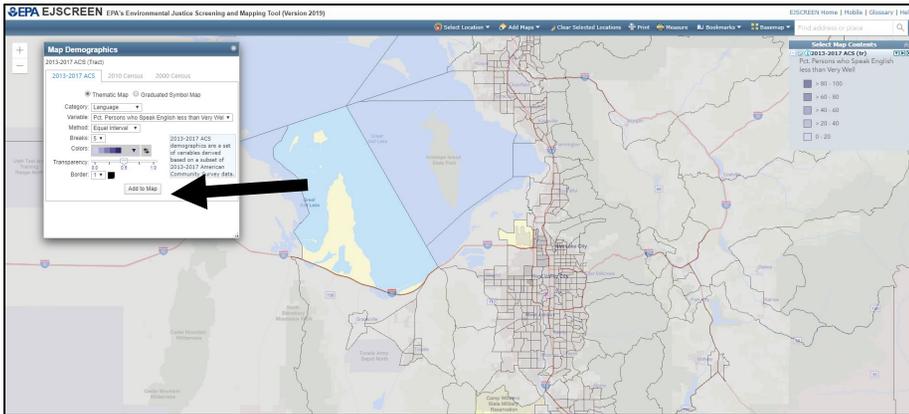


- 4. Again, using the “Add Maps” dropdown menu on the tool bar, select the “More Demographics” option.



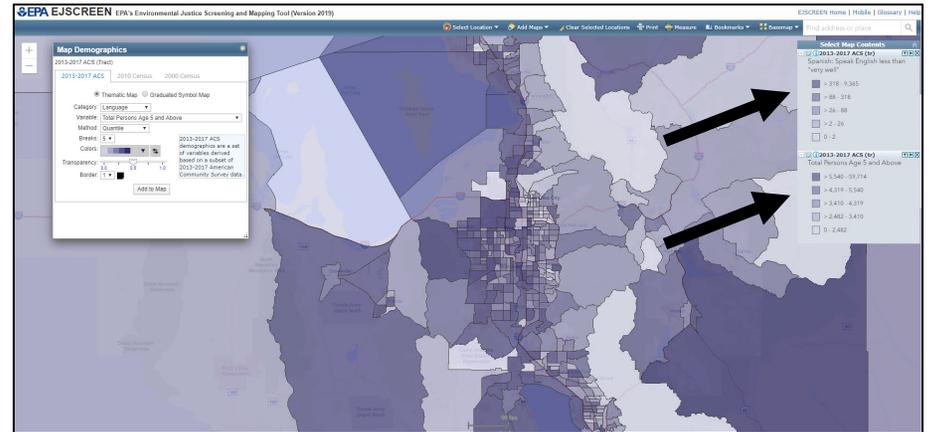
Category: Language

- 5. Using the “Category” dropdown menu in the Map Demographics pop-up window, select “Language.” Select a language variable that meets your needs (e.g., *Pct. Persons who Speak English less than Very Well*). Then click the “Add to Map” button.



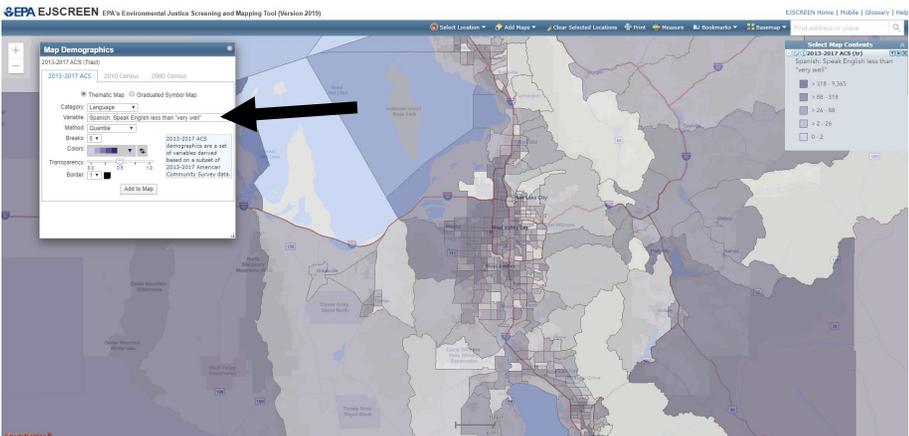
Variable: *Spanish: Speak English less than “very well”*

- Using the “Variable” dropdown menu, select *Spanish: Speak English less than “very well.”*



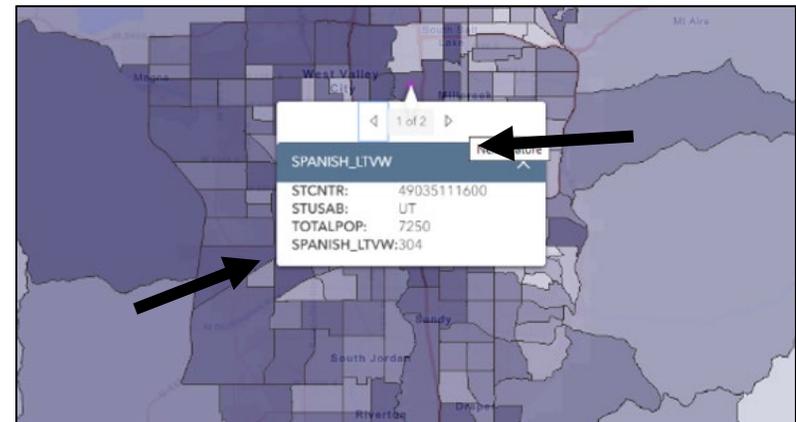
Multiple Variable: *Spanish: Speak English less than “very well” AND Total Persons Age 5 and Above*

- To compare multiple variables, simply click on a county, and the numerical data will display. You can cycle through categories using the arrows.



Multiple Variable: *Spanish: Speak English less than “very well” AND Total Persons Age 5 and Above*

- Using the “Variable” dropdown menu, select *Total Persons Age 5 and Above* without closing the prior map. Both will appear in an overlay.



## Additional Sources of LEP Data

- The U.S. Department of Education Consolidated State Reports ([www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/index.html)). The Consolidated State Report is a required annual reporting tool for state departments of education to assess if schools are meeting performance goals. The Report collects fairly comprehensive data regarding EL (English learner) students, including the 5 most commonly spoken languages other than English in that state. The data was most recently published in 2016-17 and each states' data can be downloaded as PDFs.
- Multiple states have their own detailed data sets. The best example of this is California's Education Data Partnership (<https://www.ed-data.org/>). They collect extensive data regarding LEP students in the California education system. Their search engine allows a user to search by county, district, and school, and also provides the number of English learners and the languages of English learners by year from 2013-18. The data is accessible via downloadable bar charts or line graphs.



## Feedback?

We hope you found this information helpful. Please let us know if you have feedback by directing your email to the attention of the LEP Committee at [LEP@usdoj.gov](mailto:LEP@usdoj.gov).

The LEP Committee is part of the federal Title VI Interagency Working Group and seeks to strengthen federal efforts to ensure compliance with Title VI language access requirements. Federal employees interested in joining the LEP Committee may send requests to join the committee through [LEP@usdoj.gov](mailto:LEP@usdoj.gov).