

# Small Area Health Indicators with ACS 5-Year Estimates

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ACS Data Users Conference  
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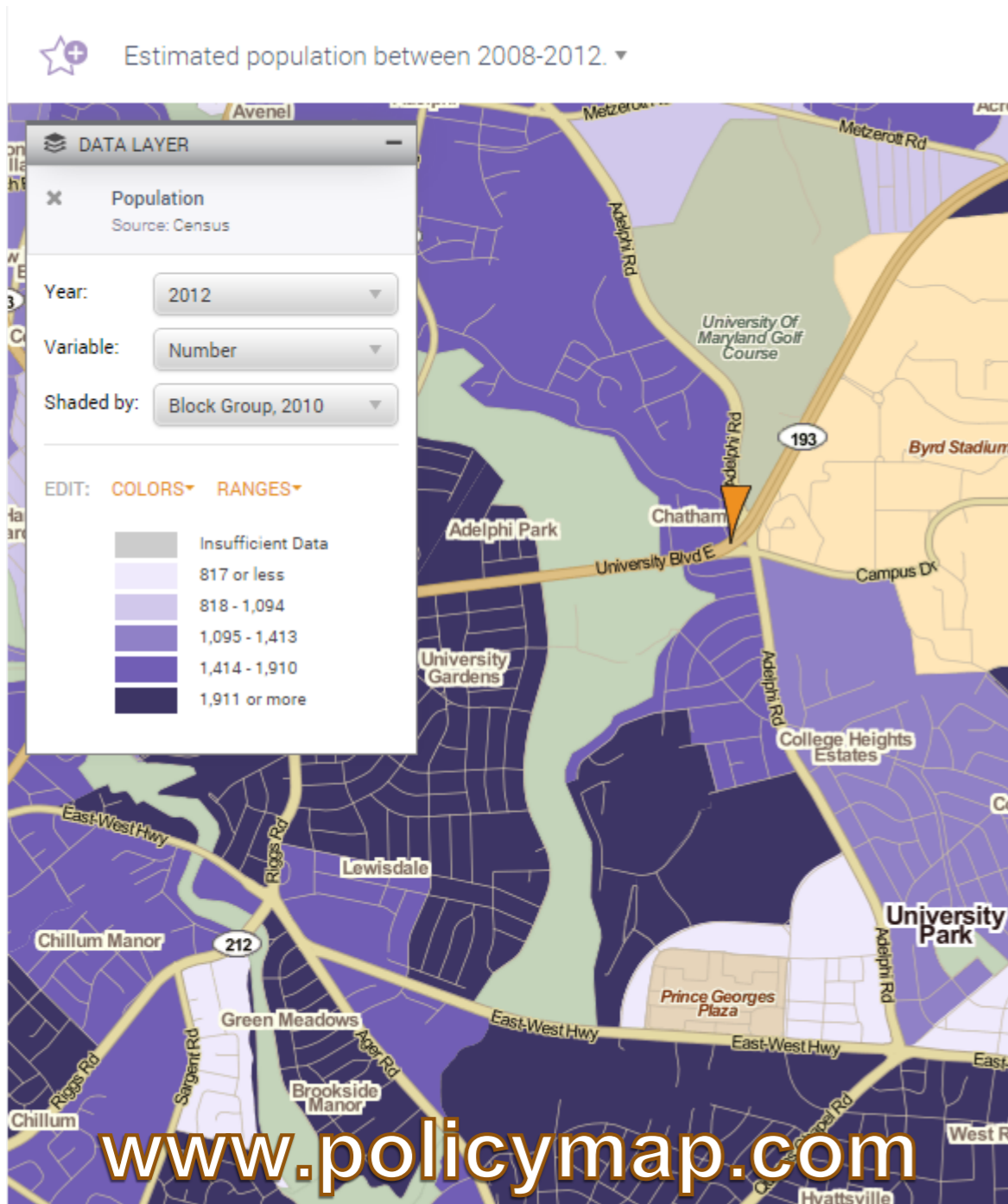
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@policymap #ACSCConf15



# Agenda

- Introductions
- Local Health Indicators
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- Creating Small Area Estimates
- Q & A



1. GROWING NEED,  
GROWING USAGE

**8,000,000**

maps were made on  
PolicyMap since 2011



2. FREE SERVICES  
FOR THE PUBLIC

**79%**

of our user base  
uses PolicyMap for free



3. DATA SAVVY  
FUTURE LEADERS

**1,082,663**

students are equipped with  
university access



4. DATA-DRIVEN  
GOVERNMENT

**2,469**

government agencies  
use PolicyMap



5. SMARTER  
NONPROFITS

**40%**

of the organizations using  
PolicyMap are nonprofits or  
philanthropies



6. FINANCIALLY  
SUSTAINABLE

**64%**

of our revenue  
is product generated

# Health Data

- Access, Quality of Care
- Health Services
- Intersections, Social Determinants of Health
- Health Outcomes
- Risk Factors and Behaviors

# Health Data: Limitations

- Availability
- Privacy, Suppression
- Comparability: across time and place

# Good Conditions for Creating Estimates

- Robust survey
- Documented link between demographics and variables
- Demographic/socioeconomic classification
- Geographic information provided
- Clearly-coded variables

# CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

- ✓ Robust survey
- ✓ Documented link between demographics and variables
- ✓ Demographic/socioeconomic classification
- ✓ Geographic information provided
- ✓ Clearly-coded variables

*About how long has it been since you last visited a doctor for a routine checkup?*

*Have you EVER been told by a doctor, nurse or other health professional that you have high blood pressure?*

# CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

- Annual phone survey of 400,000
- Record-level data available
- 53 States (including DC, Guam, PR), some cities/counties available
- Topic modules by state

*During the past 30 days, how many days per week or per month did you have at least one drink of any alcoholic beverage such as beer, wine, a malt beverage or liquor?*

*During the past month, how many times per day, week, or month did you eat dark green vegetables?*

*Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?*



# CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

- [http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual\\_data/annual\\_2013.html](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_2013.html)
- Text (84 MB) or SAS (124 MB) files available
- Combined Landline and Cellphone surveys
- Survey weights included
  - Create weighted estimates
  - Sampling

# Creating Small Area Estimates

- Predict a Yes/No response to survey questions
- Use variables in BRFSS *–and–* ACS
- Consider distribution of responses

# Multilevel, Mixed-effects Regression and Post-stratification

- Model individual survey responses as a function of demographic and geographic predictors
- Estimate the probability of Yes for “cells” of individual-level demographic variables
- Good tutorials:  
Jonathan Kastellec: [http://www.princeton.edu/~jkastell/mrp\\_primer.html](http://www.princeton.edu/~jkastell/mrp_primer.html);  
Jared Knowles: <http://jaredknowles.com/journal/2013/11/25/getting-started-with-mixed-effect-models-in-r>;  
Bodo Winter: <http://www.bodowinter.com/tutorials.html>

# ACS 5-Year Estimates for Post-stratification

- Population counts for individual-level demographic variables
- Age of householder by household income by race
- Estimate the probability of Yes for “cells” of individual-level demographic variables
- Other options:
  - Sex by age by race
  - Age by disability by poverty status

# ACS 5-Year Estimates for Post-stratification

- Population counts for individual-level demographic variables
- Age of householder by household income by race
- Desired result: cross-tab:

## For prediction:

| ##   | FIPS | MSLABEL | AGE_GLABEL | RACELABEL | INCOMELABEL | STATE |
|------|------|---------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| ## 1 | 34   | SC      | A3         | RBK       | I3          | NJ    |
| ## 2 | 24   | SC      | A3         | RBK       | I3          | MD    |
| ## 3 | 42   | SC      | A3         | RBK       | I3          | PA    |
| ## 4 | 10   | SC      | A3         | RBK       | I3          | DE    |
| ## 5 | 34   | SC      | A2         | RMT       | I3          | NJ    |
| ## 6 | 24   | SC      | A2         | RMT       | I3          | MD    |

## For post-stratification:

| FIPS  | MSCODE | RACE | AGE | INCOME | SUBPOP | PCT_POP  |
|-------|--------|------|-----|--------|--------|----------|
| 34019 | 2      | RWH  | 3   | 8      | 16,972 | 0.362526 |
| 48269 | 4      | RWH  | 3   | 8      | 43     | 0.34127  |
| 08039 | 3      | RWH  | 3   | 8      | 2,748  | 0.333495 |
| 48301 | 4      | RWH  | 3   | 8      | 10     | 0.30303  |
| 24009 | 3      | RWH  | 3   | 8      | 9,360  | 0.302687 |

|       |         |    |          | AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2013 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) (HISPANIC OR LATINO HOUSEHOLDER) |
|-------|---------|----|----------|--|
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 69 CELLS | Universe: Households with a householder who is Hispanic or Latino  |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 |          | Total:   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 1        | Householder under 25 years:  |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 2        | Less than \$10,000   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 3        | \$10,000 to \$14,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 4        | \$15,000 to \$19,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 5        | \$20,000 to \$24,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 6        | \$25,000 to \$29,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 7        | \$30,000 to \$34,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 8        | \$35,000 to \$39,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 9        | \$40,000 to \$44,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 10       | \$45,000 to \$49,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 11       | \$50,000 to \$59,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 12       | \$60,000 to \$74,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 13       | \$75,000 to \$99,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 14       | \$100,000 to \$124,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 15       | \$125,000 to \$149,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 16       | \$150,000 to \$199,999   |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 17       | \$200,000 or more  |
| ACSSF | B19037I | 63 | 18       |  |

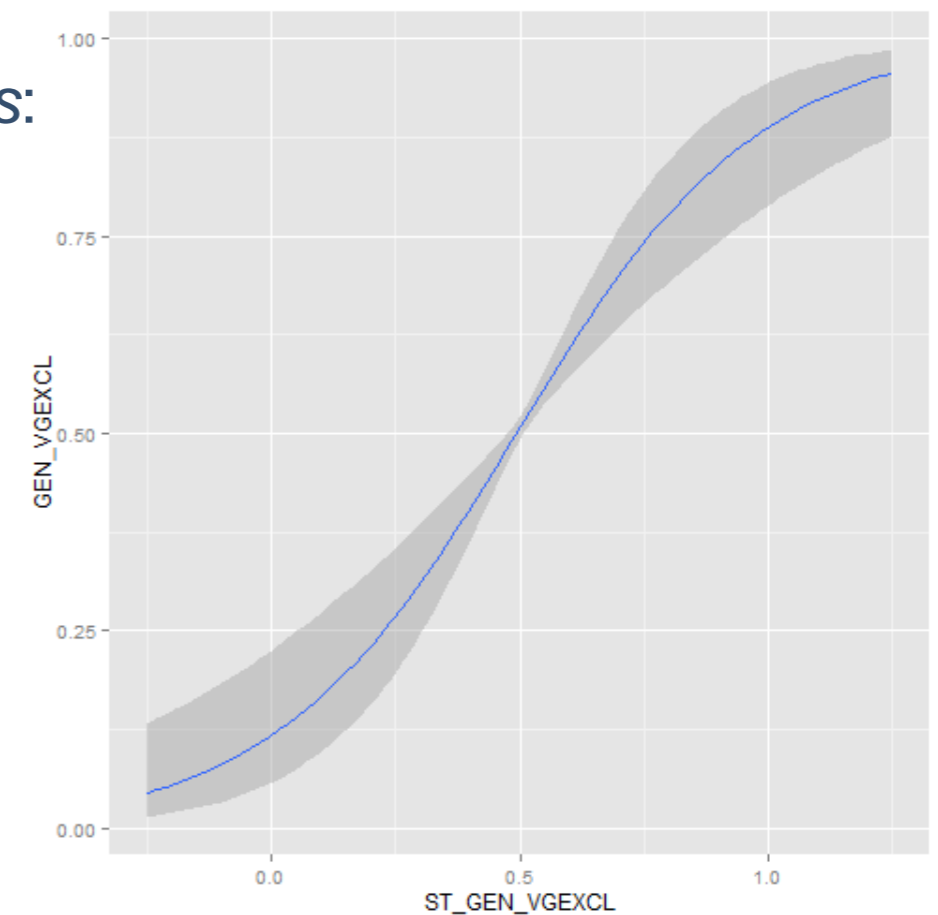
  

| FIPS  | County       | Principal City | County Status | MSCODE |
|-------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------|
| 06037 | Los Angeles  | 55%            | Central       | CC     |
| 08039 | Elbert       | 0%             | Outlying      | SC     |
| 17031 | Cook         | 56%            | Central       | CC     |
| 42101 | Philadelphia | 100%           | Central       | IC     |
| 48269 | King         | 0%             | NULL          | RA     |

# Modeling the Survey Data

For a sample R project, visit <http://git.io/vJn0v>

- *Would you say that in general your health is:*
  - Excellent**
  - Very Good**
- GEN\_VGEXCL as a function of:
  - Statewide percentage
  - Income
  - Age
  - Race
  - Metro classification



# Modeling the Survey Data

For a sample R project, visit <http://git.io/vJn0v>

- Data sample (using weights)
- Table of statewide values for variable
- A second sample, for validating the model
- Shell of age (4) x income (8) x race (5) x metro (4)
  - 640 cells per state



# Modeling the Survey Data

```
glm <- glmer(GEN_VGEXCL ~ RACELABEL + INCOMELABEL + AGE_GLABEL + ST_GEN_VGEXCL + (1|MSLABEL:RACELABEL),
family = "binomial", data = data)
```

```
predictsample <- data[sample(1:nrow(data), size=5000, replace=T, prob = as.integer(data$LLCPWT)), ]
```

```
predictsample$PR_GEN_VGEXCL <- predict(
  glm, type = "response", newdata = predictsample, allow.new.levels = TRUE)
summary(predictsample$PR_GEN_VGEXCL)
```

```
##      Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
## 0.1245  0.3746  0.5320  0.5027  0.6241  0.7984
```

```
data <- data[complete.cases(data), ]
head(data)
```

```
##      FIPS STATE MSLABEL INCOMELABEL      LLCPWT AGE_GLABEL RACELABEL
## 1     12  FL      CC          I6    755.2860      A4          RWH
## 2     39  OH      IC          I6   2109.2465      A2          RWH
## 3      6  CA      IC          I3  11698.2597      A2          RHS
## 4     55  WI      RA          I8   1016.0006      A4          ROT
## 5      6  CA      IC          I8   1871.4452      A3          RWH
## 6     36  NY      CC          I8    555.7514      A4          RWH
##      GEN_VGEXCL ST_GEN_VGEXCL
## 1             0  0.4957354
## 2             0  0.5022108
## 3             0  0.5072307
## 4             0  0.5369327
## 5             0  0.5072307
## 6             1  0.5159127
```

# Modeling the Survey Data

For a sample R project, visit <http://git.io/vJn0v>

- Predict a response for each cell (640 per state)

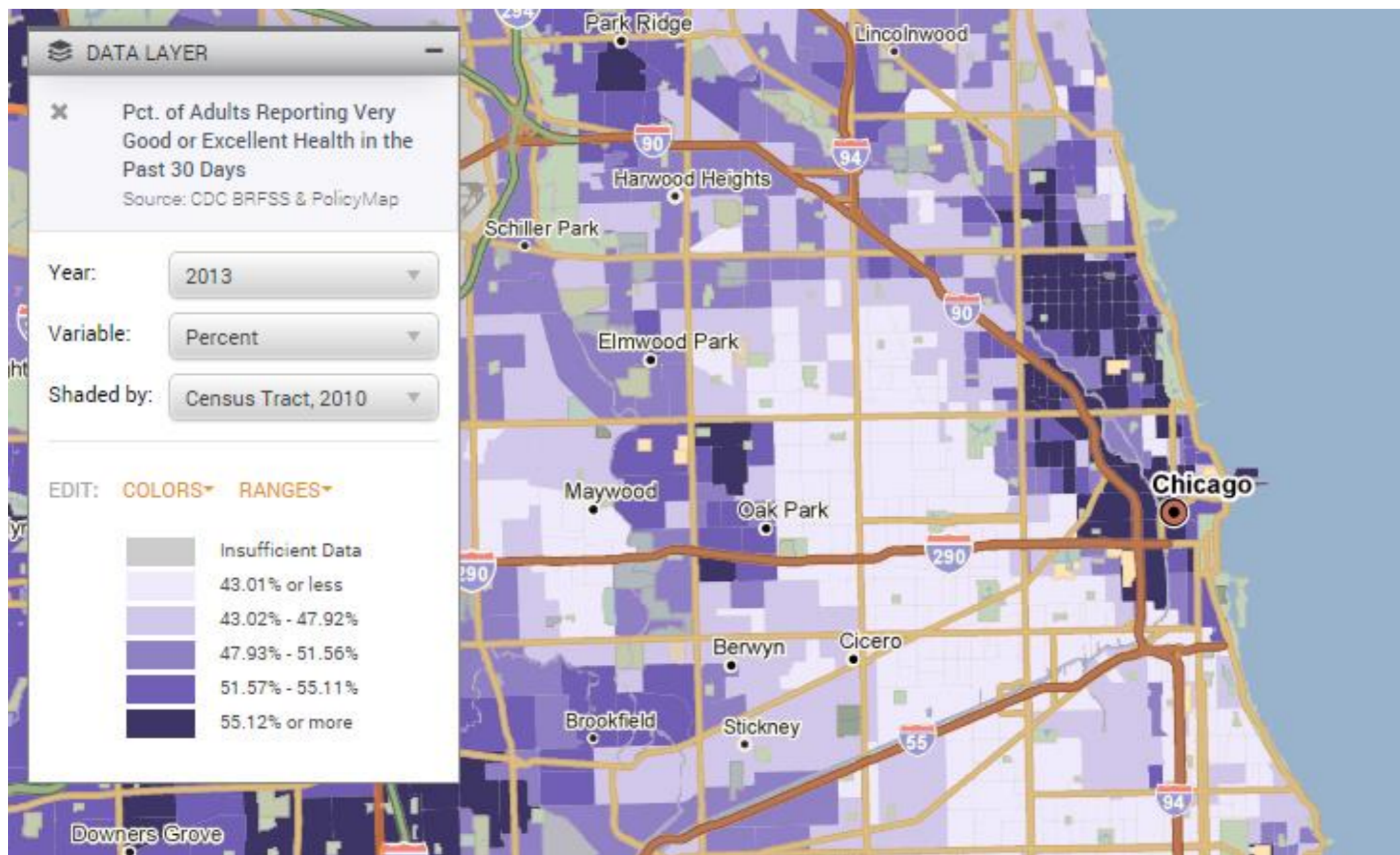
```
##      FIPS MSLABEL AGE_GLABEL RACELABEL INCOMELABEL STATE ST_GEN_VGEXCL
## 1     34      CC      A3          RBK           I3      NJ          0.5280175
## 2     24      CC      A3          RBK           I3      MD          0.5368445
## 3     42      CC      A3          RBK           I3      PA          0.4265109
## 4     10      CC      A3          RBK           I3      DE          0.4444476
## 5     34      CC      A2          RMT           I3      NJ          0.5280175
## 6     24      CC      A2          RMT           I3      MD          0.5368445
##      PR_GEN_VGEXCL
## 1          0.2970425
## 2          0.3027684
## 3          0.2359465
## 4          0.2460825
## 5          0.2822745
## 6          0.2878322
```

# ACS 5-Year Estimates for Post-stratification

| Tract  | POP > 18 | %     | #    |
|--------|----------|-------|------|
| 010100 | 3719     | 45.11 | 1677 |
| 010201 | 5325     | 44.79 | 2385 |

- Translate individual predictions into place values
- Calculate weighted average probability for each geography
- Calculate estimates (number and percent) for adults 18+

| FIPS  | MSCODE | RACE | AGE | INCOME | SUBPOP | PR_GEN_VGEXCL |
|-------|--------|------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|
| 06037 | 2      | RBK  | 1   | 2      | 1282   | 0.3843        |
| 06037 | 2      | RBK  | 1   | 6      | 1369   | 0.6019        |
| 06037 | 2      | RBK  | 1   | 5      | 1764   | 0.5345        |
| 17031 | 2      | RHS  | 1   | 4      | 1208   | 0.4038        |
| 06037 | 2      | RWH  | 1   | 4      | 2199   | 0.5762        |
| 17031 | 2      | RHS  | 1   | 3      | 1317   | 0.3687        |
| 06037 | 2      | RWH  | 1   | 3      | 2205   | 0.5396        |
| 17031 | 2      | RBK  | 1   | 5      | 1403   | 0.5284        |



## For more information:

- [www.policymap.com/](http://www.policymap.com/)
- For a sample R project, visit <http://git.io/vJn0v>
- [http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual\\_data/annual\\_2013.html](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_2013.html)

# Thank you!

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a presentation to the ACS Data Users Conference  
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