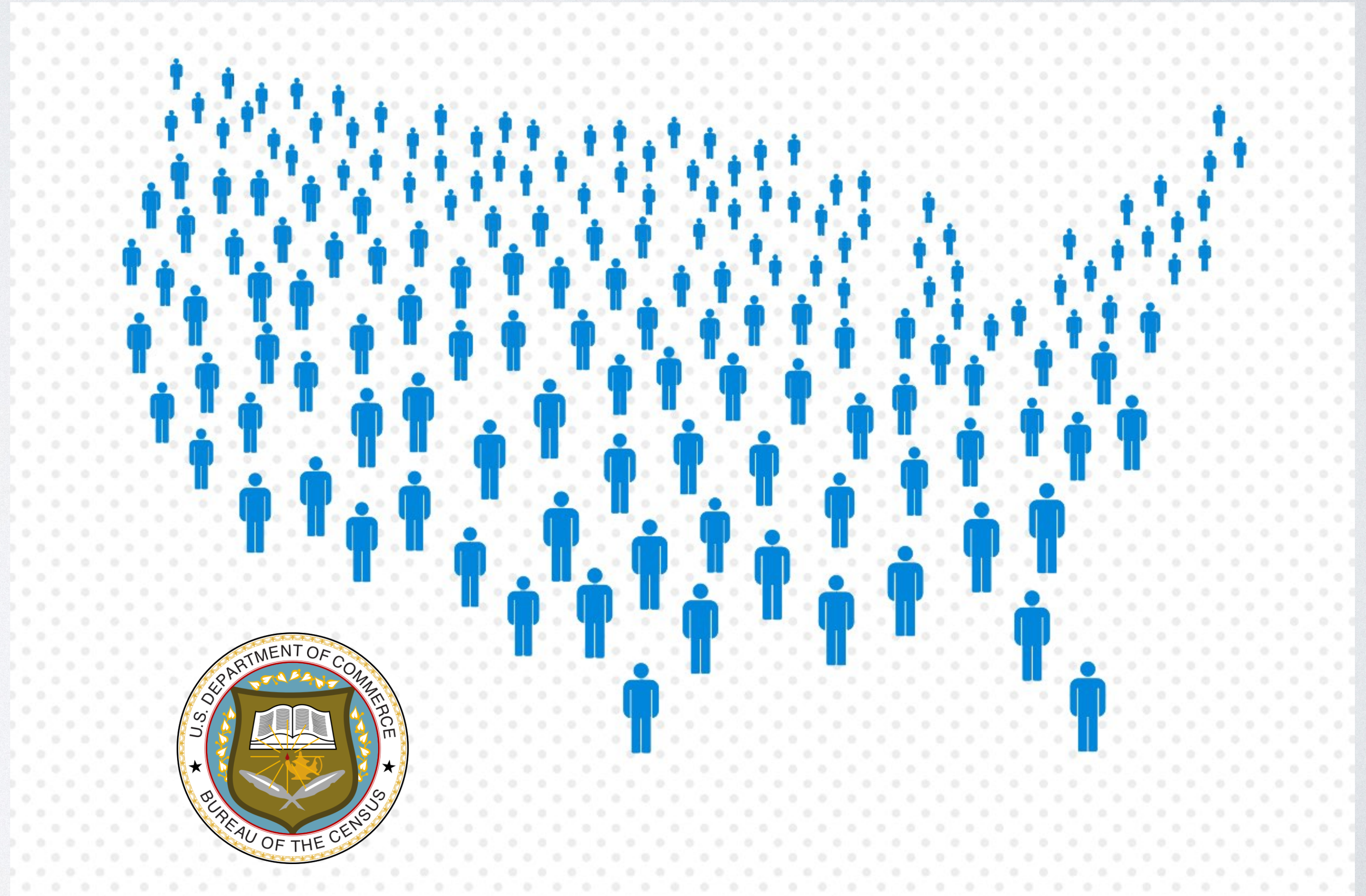


# U.S. CENSUS FUNDAMENTALS

*Dr. Zofia Stanley and Prof. Chad M. Topaz*  
*QSIDE Institute*

# TODAY'S WORKSHOP

- Types of surveys
- Types of data
- Geographic units
- Variables
- Limitations
- How to access
- Demos and practice
- Q&A



# TYPES OF SURVEYS

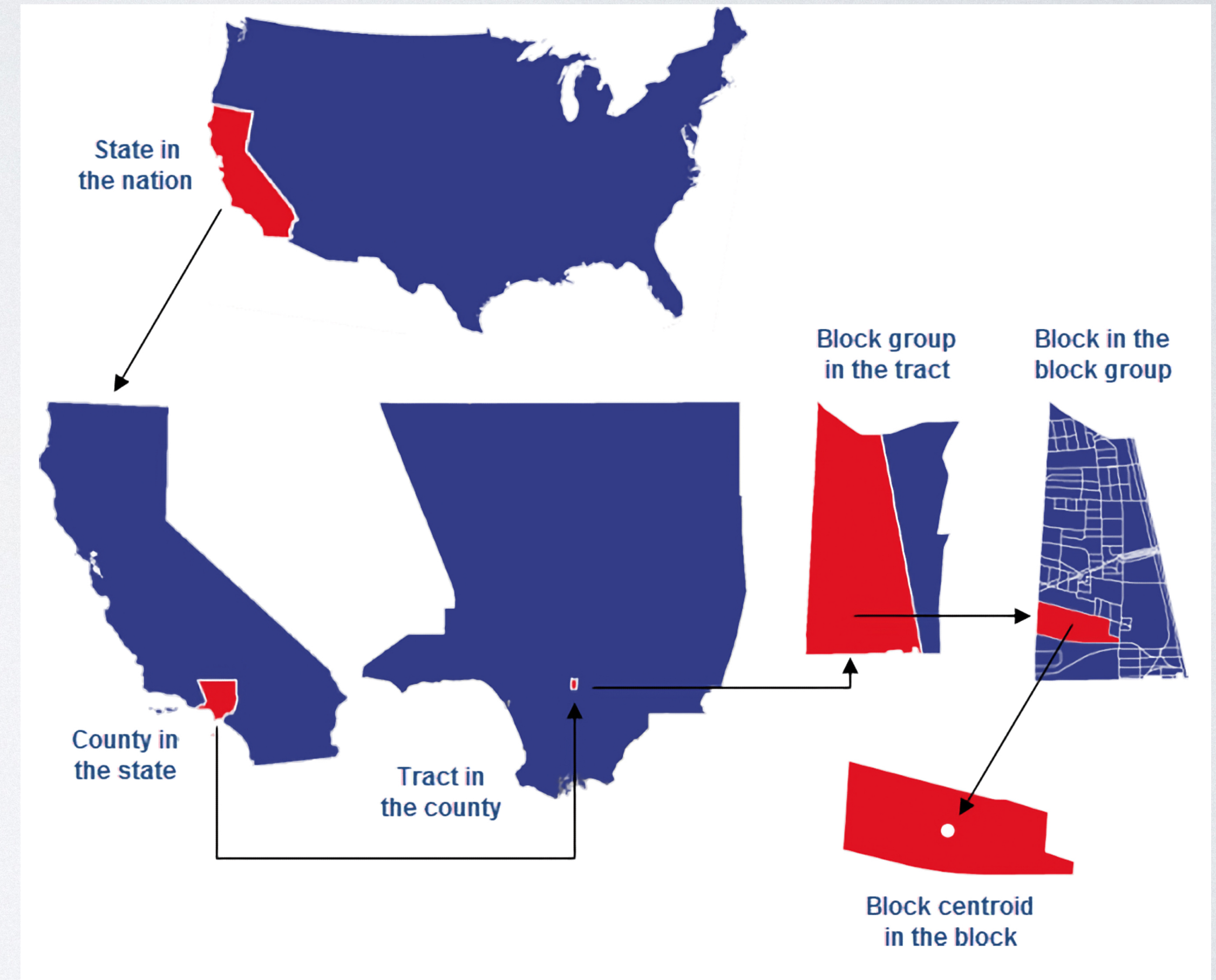
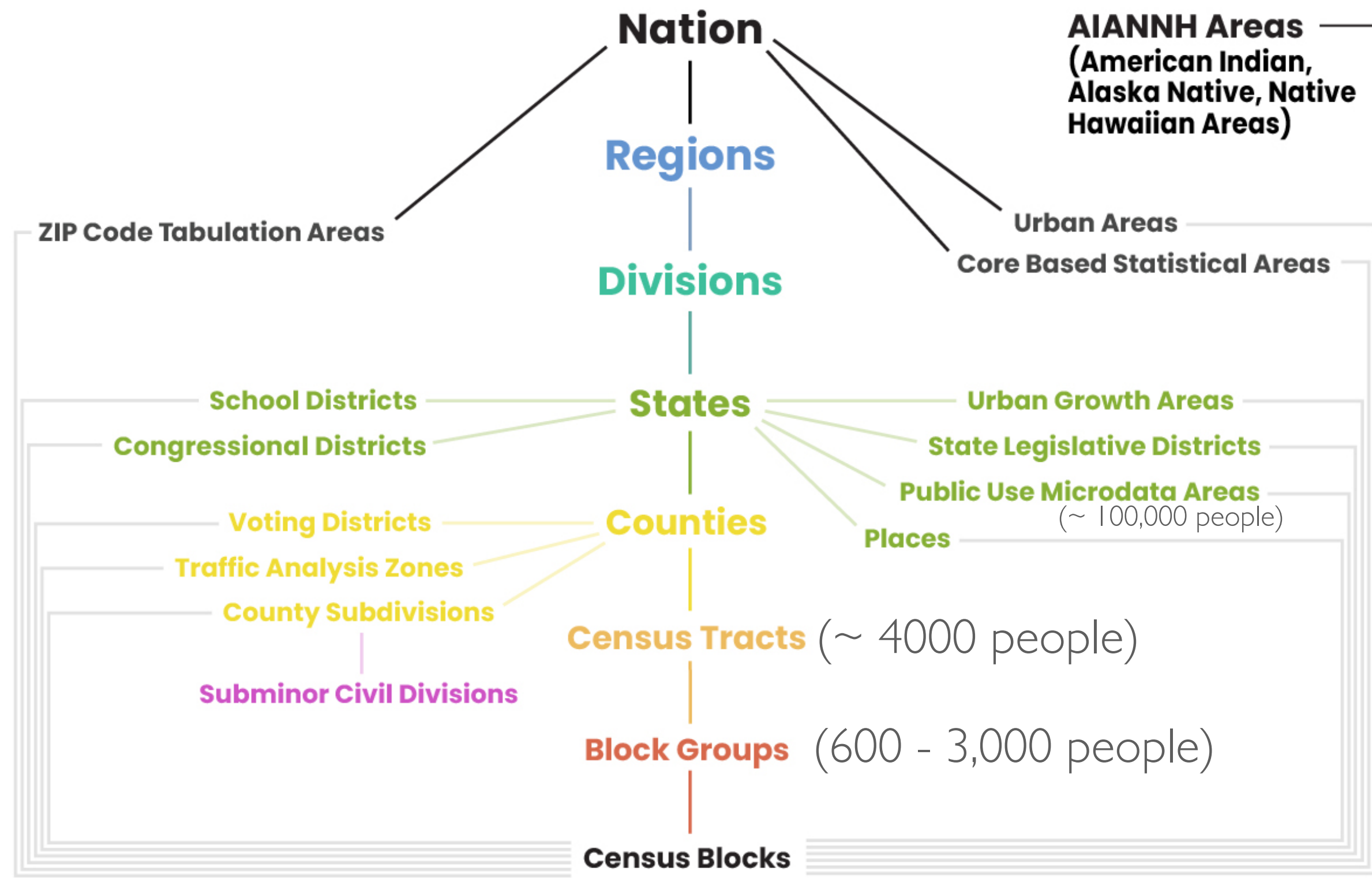
Survey	Decennial Census	American Community Survey
Frequency	Every 10 years	Every year
Methodology	Full count	Sampling
Used for	Long term planning Legislative representation Funding allocations	Seeing trends Making policies

# TYPES OF CENSUS DATA

Data	Regular	Microdata
Granularity	In aggregate	Individual level
Crosstabs	Only a few, premade	Create yourself for any variables
Available For	Decennial Census and ACS	ACS Only

# GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

## Standard Hierarchy of Census Geographic Entities



# CENSUS VARIABLES (A TINY TASTE)

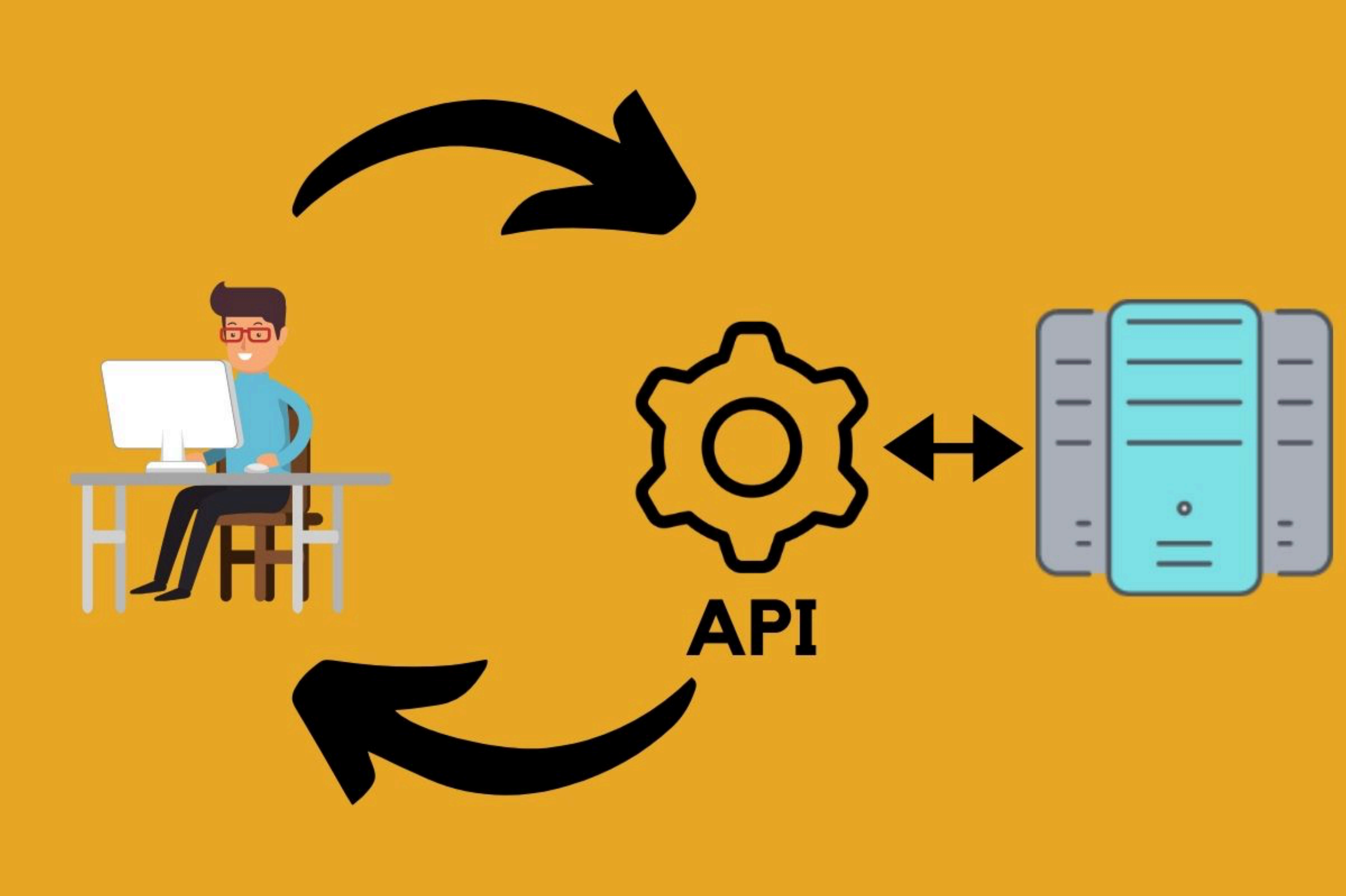
Demographics	Age Sex Race	Hispanic/Latino Marital Status Etc.
Socioeconomics	Income Employment Status Occupation	Value of Home Amount of Rent Etc.
Education	Educational Attainment School Enrollment	Field of Degree Etc.

# SOME LIMITATIONS OF CENSUS

- Overcounting of some groups
- Undercounting of some groups
- Problematic and/or incomplete categories (e.g., male/female, racial categorizations...)
- Can be hard to navigate!



# ACCESSING CENSUS DATA





United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
Bureau

data.census.gov

## Explore Census Data

Learn about America's People, Places, and Economy

Find Tables, Maps, and more...  

[Help](#) [Feedback](#) [Advanced Search](#)

Try searching for [grocery stores](#) | in [Georgia](#) in [2017](#)

# CASE # 1: HEALTH & DISABILITY IN LORAIN COUNTY, OH



“Our mission is to ensure the availability of services and supports that assist eligible individuals in living the life they choose; to promote their **health and safety**; and to assist and support the families of these individuals in achieving these goals.”

Q: Can we use Census data to *estimate* the percent of the people served by the Murray Ridge Center who do not have health insurance?

# CASE # 1: HEALTH & DISABILITY IN LORAIN COUNTY, OH

[data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

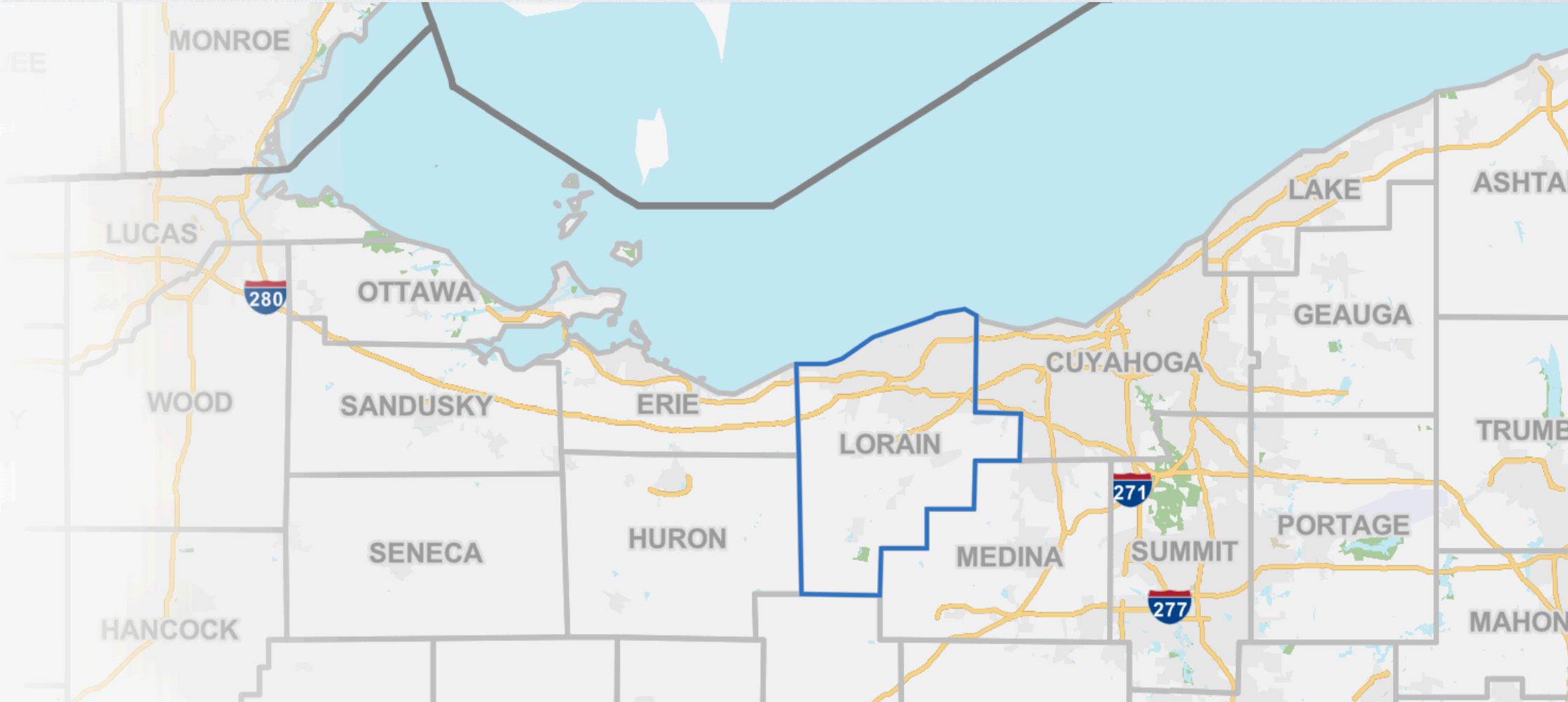
# CASE # 1: HEALTH & DISABILITY IN LORAIN COUNTY, OH

County

## Lorain County, Ohio

Lorain County, Ohio has 490.5 square miles of land area and is the 28th largest county in Ohio by total area. Lorain County, Ohio is bordered by [Medina County, Ohio](#), [Huron County, Ohio](#), [Ashland County, Ohio](#), [Cuyahoga County, Ohio](#), and [Erie County, Ohio](#)....[Read More](#)

[Share Profile](#)



// [United States](#) / [Ohio](#) / Lorain County, Ohio

Display Sources



**Populations and People**  
Total Population  
**312,964**



**Employment**  
Employment Rate  
**58.2%**



**Business and Economy**  
Total Employer Establishments  
**5,574**



**Income and Poverty**  
Median Household Income  
**\$66,330**



**Housing**  
Total Housing Units  
**134,341**



**Families and Living Arrangements**  
Total Households  
**126,500**



**Education**  
Bachelor's Degree or Higher  
**30.1%**



**Health**  
Without Health Care Coverage  
**6.1%**



**Race and Ethnicity**  
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)  
**32,917**

# CASE # 1: HEALTH & DISABILITY IN LORAIN COUNTY, OH



## Health

Without Health Care Coverage

**6.1%**

Based on Census data from Lorain County, OH, we estimate that 6.1% of people served by Murray Ridge Center do not have health insurance.

# CASE # 1: HEALTH & DISABILITY IN LORAIN COUNTY, OH

## Health

### Disability

**16.3% ± 1.3%**  
Disabled Population in Lorain County, Ohio

**14.4% ± 0.2%**  
Disabled Population in Ohio

S1810 | 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

### Types of Disabilities in Lorain County, Ohio

Hearing difficulty - 4.3%

Vision difficulty - 2.7%

Cognitive difficulty - 6.5%

Ambulatory difficulty - 8.1%

Self-care difficulty - 3.0%

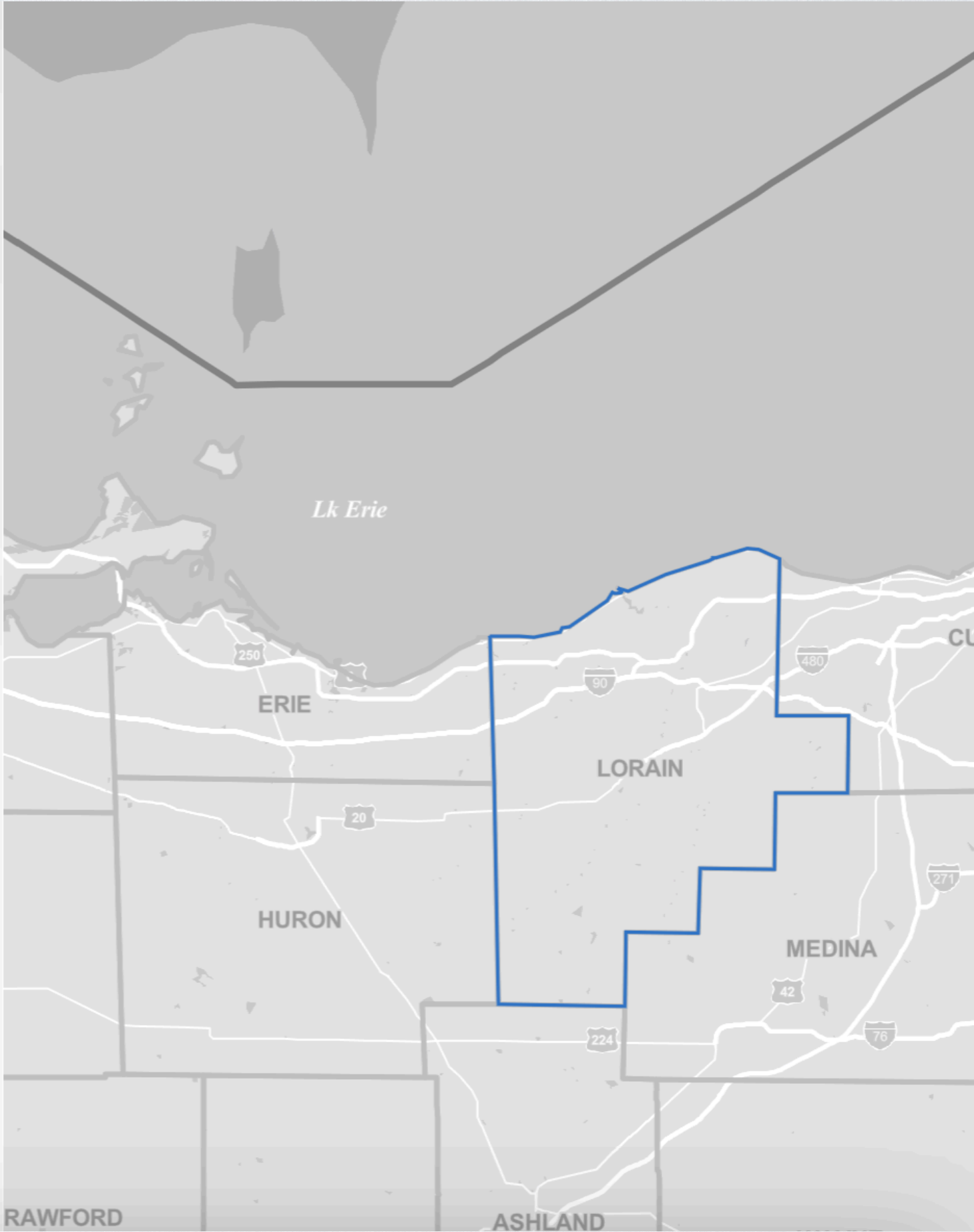
Independent living difficulty - 8.1%

0% 1% 2% 3% 4% 5% 6% 7% 8% 9%

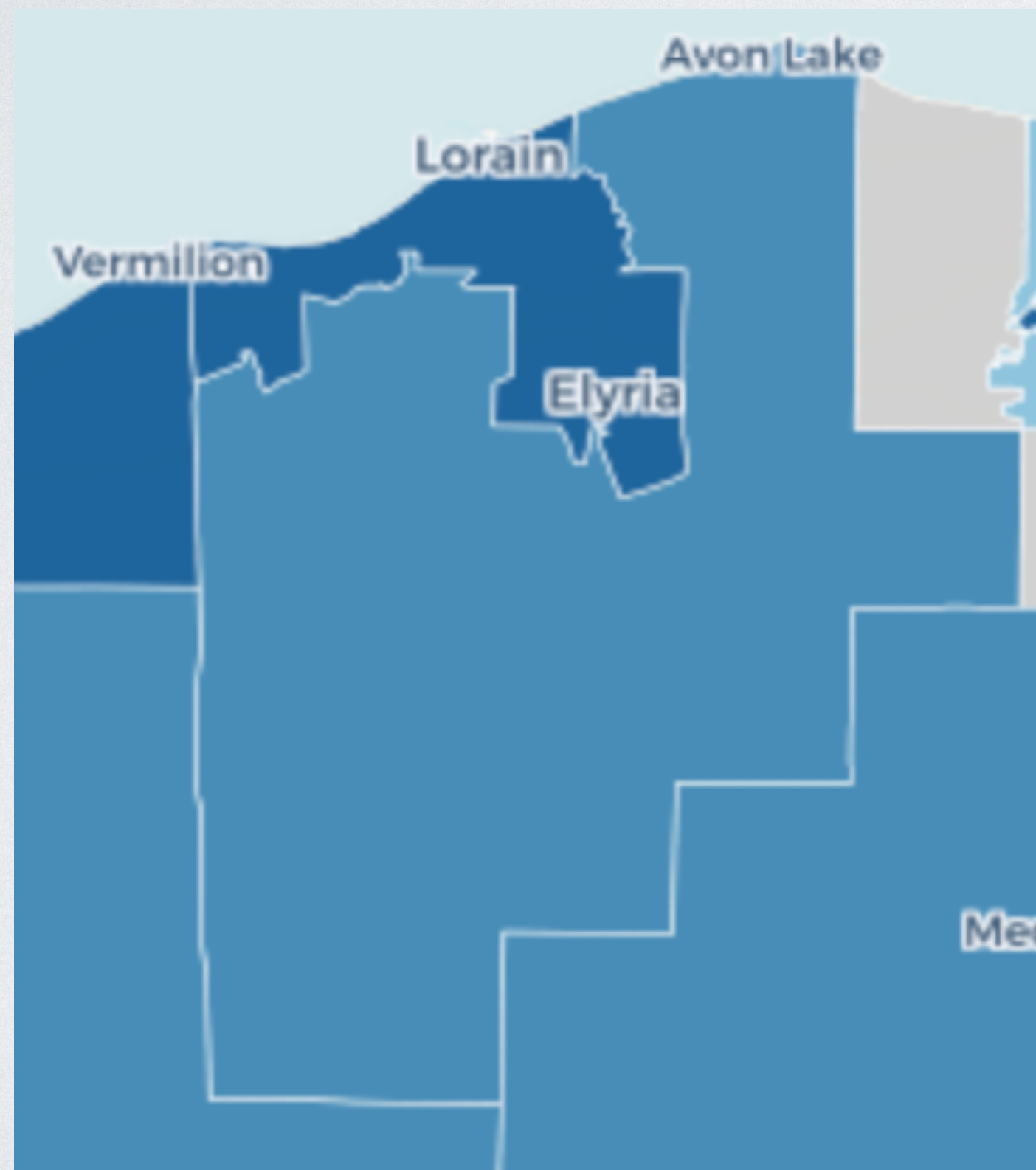
 Show Table   Display Margin of Error

S1810 | 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

 Share / Embed



# CASE # 1: HEALTH & DISABILITY IN LORAIN COUNTY, OH



[data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

# CASE # 1: HEALTH & DISABILITY IN LORAIN COUNTY, OH

Disability recode (DIS)	Health insurance coverage recode (HICOV)		
	Total	With health insurance coverage	No health insurance coverage
▼ Total (4)	311,338	291,870	19,468
▼ Total Lorain County (North)--Elyria & Lorain Cities PUMA, Ohio (2)	133,308	122,203	11,105
With a disability	22,908	22,225	683
Without a disability	110,400	99,978	10,422
▼ Total Lorain County (South)--Avon, Avon Lake & North Ridgeville Cities PUMA; Ohio (2)	178,030	169,667	8,363
With a disability	21,495	20,142	1,353
Without a disability	156,535	149,525	7,010

$$\frac{\text{ppl w/ disability \& no insurance}}{\text{ppl w/ disability}} = \frac{683 + 1,353}{22,908 + 21,495} = 4.6\%$$

# CASE # 1: HEALTH & DISABILITY IN LORAIN COUNTY, OH

Estimate # 1: 6.1 %

Estimate #2: 4.6 %

1. Which estimate is more likely to reflect the experience of people served by the Murray Ridge Center?

2. Pretend you are writing a grant for the Murray Ridge Center to launch a new program to help participants sign up for Medicaid. As a group, write a sentence or two that could be used in this grant application.

# CASE #2: DISCONNECTION IN ALASKA

1. Estimate the number of people in Anchorage, Alaska who are not employed. (*Bonus: Estimate the number of people who are not in school and not employed.*)
2. Write 1-2 sentences about this estimate that could be included in a grant application.

# OTHER PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATA SOURCES / ESTIMATES



THANK YOU! Q&A TIME