# Mapping the Geography of American Families

# A Proposal

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## Abstract

## In this project I will use U.S. census data, along with American Community Survey data, in order to map the changing landscape of the American family. I will lay this data over maps of the United States in order to view patterns of how American families are changing and to see general patterns that correlate to this change.

## Introduction

In this project I will use GIS to study the geography of families. The spatial distribution of families is interesting because it allows us to see what kinds of families develop in different regions. This project will serve as the basemap for future researchers to further develop more detailed maps and theories that correlate with the map.

## Research Question or Purpose of Project

Through this project, we can view how the “typical” American family is changing and propose patterns for this change. As well, it would allow us to see what types of families develop in specific regions which would allow future researchers to establish correlations between the types of family and the reason for their growth within that region. As well, it would allow policy makers to better serve constituents by providing necessary and specific services that different types of families would need in different areas of the nation.

## Maps and Analyses

The basemap would be a basic map of the United States. Using dot density, I would be able to map the different kinds of families that are included within the Census and ACS data.

## Data Sources

ArcMap contains basic maps of the United States. 

All other data will be retrieved from the U.S. Census and ACS websites.

## Exemplars

## <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ThematicMapFramesetServlet?_bm=y&-geo_id=01000US&-tm_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_M00001&-ds_name=ACS_2009_5YR_G00_&-_MapEvent=displayBy&-_dBy=040&-_lang=en&-_sse=on>

## <http://www.usends.com/mapguy/MapPgs/mapx20.htm>

## <http://www.brookings.edu/metro/StateOfMetroAmerica/Map.aspx#/?subject=5&ind=40&dist=0&data=Percent&year=2009&geo=metro&zoom=0&x=0&y=0> (Brookings – State of Metropolitan America)

## <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/women_breadwinners.html> (Center Of American Progress)

## Time Line

18 October – Gather Data

25 October – Gather Data

1 November – Place data on basemap

8 November – Place data on basemap

15 November – Check work against Data

22 November - Continue to check work and prepare presentation

29 November Presentations

6 December Presentations

## References

U.S. Census, "Families and Living Arrangements." Last modified 2010. Accessed October 11, 2011. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>.

U.S. Census, "HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates ." Last modified 2010. Accessed October 11, 2011. <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_1YR_S1101&prodType=table>.

U.S Census, “SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates .” Last modified 2010. Accessed October 11, 2011. <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_1YR_DP02&prodType=table>.