Urban Sociology Lab # 2

( Intro. to housing and some of its characteristics and changes, using Social Explorer )

Objectives for this week’s lab:

a) Introducing new tools/ What are data sets? (In this case, Social Explorer)
b) [Beginning to] look at different characteristics /variables (today housing)

Tasks:

Find your own census tract or zip code; find the range of housing values for 2000. Print the map and a statement about the Median house value and median rent.

Put together a table showing a) the number of housing units in your (5 digit) zip code; b) the range of housing values in percentages for the housing units. c) Likewise for rents, develop another table which shows the rental range for your zip code, and the range for another one in your metro area (of interest to you). You can use either/both Social Explorer &/or the US Census (2000?) for this.

For this lab, come Wed., we want to see both tables and maps.

How to do this:

1) Go to Social Explorer (you can either go directly or via Bird> databases main menu>
2) Click on the Maps tab; go to left side > down to Census 2000 Maps > zip code...,

A map of the US, with the states outlined, will load. On the right side are a series of boxes to be filled in and choices to be made. The first (box) asks what kind of map you want (choose a zip code map – 2000 ZCTA). The second also gives you a drop-down list of choices. From that list pick Housing. The third also gives a drop down list of choices re. Housing. You will have to do this separately, but find (both) the Median housing value and the median rent for your zip code.

Print the map and note both figures. Add a sentence or two explaining what the figures mean to you. E.g., are these indications of affluence or poverty in your neighborhood(s); are the figures surprising (or what you expect) given what you know about the area; are the 2010 numbers likely to be better or worse?

For Wed., to generate the tables, you will need to use the reports (not the maps) tab. Again, choose the 2000 Census (on the left); you will be led down a path of choices/decision tree which we will discuss /illustrate tom’w. Starting with Geography; within that box of options zip code will be near the bottom.

(Q is this too much to do in one class/one go?)