

Town of Brookline Senior Center Census Data Project Description

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Dear Ruthann,

I am so appreciative of your willingness to work together on the analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) census data in the context of Brookline Senior Center programs. I hope that we will be able to provide new insight into the population you serve. What I have in mind is to explore the ACS Census data for the Brookline census tracts as well as dividing Brookline into North and South. This way you can contrast and compare the two populations as well as the statistics for all of Brookline.

The ACS provides information on social, economic, educational, housing, and demographic characteristics. The ACS is collected using rigorous methods from survey science. Because age is collected in the survey, we will be able to examine population characteristics for the older population, for example, people over 65 broken into age groups. Here are some of the “variables” or tables in the ACS census data:

1. Difficulty with Vision, Hearing, Self-Care, Cognitive, Independent Living, Ambulatory
2. Private Health Insurance: for example Medicare supplemental, insurance through an employer
3. Poverty Status
4. Marital Status: Married, Widow, Widower, Divorced, Never Married.
5. Household Income
6. Household type, for example number of members in the household
7. Renter v Owner
8. Race

Many of these tables are broken out by gender.

When I am able to access your participant address list, I will be able to further refine the analysis to exactly the population that you are currently serving. Once the results are gathered together, I would be happy to do a slide presentation for your board and staff. Your participants might be interested as well. I am aiming to produce some type of a report by early next year. Computer output for review will be available before that.

This work will be done pro bono.

Best,

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