Data Gathering Resources

The following list of data gathering resources was compiled in 2015.   Please feel free to contact Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) with questions about any of the following programs. Phone: 218-722-5545 www.ardc.org

US Census Bureau Tools

- **Quick Facts**: http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html
  Select a state, county or city/town, and view commonly requested Census data about People, Business or Geography —such as population by race/ethnicity, establishments, land area, etc.

- **Easy Stats**: http://www.census.gov/easystats/
  A tool to access American Community Survey (ACS) data without using American FactFinder. Search geographies including states, counties, incorporated places (towns/cities), congressional districts, etc. Drill in by one of five topic areas: financial, jobs, housing, people, or education to view detailed racial, age and sex breakdowns and more.

- **2010 Population Finder:** http://www.census.gov/popfinder/
  Quickly look up 2010 decennial census results for any geography. Select state, then "Areas Within" button if you wish to drill down to counties, places (cities/towns), AIAN Areas (American Indian lands), or congressional districts. Click "Display" button when you have located your geography of interest. Returns population data by age groups, sex, race/ethnicity, as well as basic housing data (total units, vacancies, occupancies).

- **Census Explorer for mapping:** http://www.census.gov/censusexplorer/
  Launched in late 2013. Use to view a limited set of topical data (population totals, % 65+, median household income, etc.) on a map from 1990, 2000, and 2008-2012 ACS. Can examine at census tract and higher geographic levels. Helpful for observing broad patterns of change over time. Shortcomings: not directly downloadable, no error margins given.

American FactFinder

- **Community Facts:** http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

  Enter a state, county, city, town, or zip code to start and a series of topical tabs (Age, Business & Industry, Education, Income, etc.) will walk you through popular tables in American FactFinder to simplify searches. Good if you want a single geography, single year and limited topics.

- **Guided Search:** http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

  More powerful than "Community Facts," but more hand-holding than "Advanced Search," with a clear linear path to your tables. Walks you through selecting your Topic, Geographies,

Race/Ethnic Groups, and arriving at your table(s). Can select multiple geographies, but does not contain all geographies and returns only the top 10 search (more require Advanced Search).

- **Summary File Retrieval Tool**

  http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/summary_file/ Requires a macro-enabled Excel workbook. Download up to 20 tables at a time for all geos. How-to video and user guide at this link. Has all ACS datasets (1, 3, 5 yr) from 2008-2012. Alternately, use FTP site: http://www2.census.gov/

Economic Data

- **US Bureau of Labor Statistics** http://www.bls.gov/data/

  Information in regard to Economic and labor force indicators. The user may search by state and region (Midwest) and find statistics including: Monthly unemployment rates, Employment rates in several employment categories, and number of persons in the labor force.

- **US Cluster Mapping** tool, http://clustermapping.us/

  This site allows you to view business and job clusters in the US. The site includes articles that review current economic trends and issues. One resource allows you to compare economic indicators by region. Northeast Minnesota is featured as region with statistics including employment, wages and prosperity.

Minnesota Data

- **Minnesota Compass:** http://www.mncompass.org/
  MNCompass is an indicators project of Wilder Research in St. Paul that measures progress in our state, its seven regions, 87 counties and larger cities. Data on demographics, education, economy, health, housing, public safety, workforce and more. Navigate to "Key Measures" by first selecting a topic from the black banner on the homepage, then explore multiple cuts, geographies and views of data (including download) using the gray bar above each graph.

- **Met Council Data & Maps:** http://metrocouncil.org/Data-Maps.aspx
  Access maps and key information about the Twin Cities region or any city, county or township, including charts and data on population, employment, housing, land use and transportation in "Community Profiles."

- **PolicyMap:** http://www.policymap.com/maps
  Following a free registration, PolicyMap allows users to access to a host of data indicators easily mapped onto geographies (background in GIS necessary) from the national to local level. Explore topics such as Neighborhood Conditions, Lending Activity, Money & Income, Demographics, Owners & Renters, and Jobs & Economy. Helpful "Map Boundaries" button allows you to toggle on boundary layers (e.g., label all census tracts). Note: Limited ability to customize maps through free version; premium content available by subscription.

- **Social Explorer:** http://www.socialexplorer.com/explore/maps
  Premium content requires a subscription (or visit your local library to access), but much of the data is available in the free edition. SE is a rich repository for decennial and ACS data, and an easy look-up for lots of historical Census data, back to 1790! An easy-to-use interface and helpful thematic maps.

- **SHADAC** (State Health Access Data Assistance Center). http://datacenter.shadac.org/
  An excellent storehouse of health- elated data (coverage, access, cost, health behaviors, social determinants of health) from both Census Bureau (ACS) and non-Census surveys/sources. Interactive charts, maps, ranking lists.

- **ACS and decennial microdata ("IPUMS") from the U of M:** https://usa.ipums.org/usa/
  For advanced users (use caution!), try the "Analyze Data Online" feature in upper left corner, or create your own extracts to work with in a statistical package such as SAS or SPSS. Also look up question language on any Census questionnaire from 1850 forward here: https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumForm.shtml

- **MN State Demographic Center:** http://mn.gov/admin/demography
  Access population estimates, projections, and additional demographic, economic and social datasets for geographies across the state. Explore trends in briefs and presentations. Follow our Twitter account at https://twitter.com/MN_StateData for new data offerings and insights.