National Infrastructure for Community Statistics
America's Data Exchange
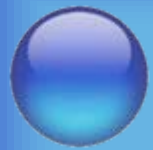
FedStats Task Force Briefing on NICS and Metadata
March 8, 2006 . 10:00 A.M.
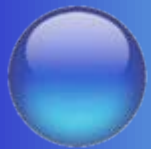
December 16, 2005
OMB Memorandum

- OMB recognizes a need for the dissemination of information in a new 21st century information economy
- The dissemination of data must be standardized to do so efficiently and effectively
- This standardization requires metadata
- Statistical systems will be dependent on this underlying metadata process to meet the needs of the market in line with OMB's directive

NICS: America's Data Exchange

- Internet-based nationwide marketplace for the exchange of community-level datasets and the tools with which to analyze these data

- Operate as the underlying real-time data engine for on-line data intermediaries

- Serve as one-stop access point to a multitude of data sets for purposes of research and analysis by program agencies, universities, and other research institutions

- Provide access to relevant federal datasets

- Provide tools and resources to enable access and integration of local, state, nonprofit, and commercial datasets with federal data

- Transparent, widely accepted, and easy to use

www.NICSWeb.org

National Infrastructure for Community Statistics

Background

NICS Committees

Charter

Links

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WELCOME

The National Infrastructure for Community Statistics (NICS) is a nationwide web-based utility that facilitates access by public and private decision-makers to detailed, current community-level statistics from thousands of local, state, federal, and commercial data sources.

The ability to access and analyze [...] administrative data for small areas facilitates greater understa[...] geophysical conditions, trends and opportunities, as well as m[...] decisions, improved measurement of program and investment[...] national indicators efforts. In this way, community statistics hav[...] better public and private choices, and empower communities [...] change.

To implement this vision, the **NICS Community of Practice** ([...] working towards developing the National Infrastructure for Com[...]

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NICS Data and Tools

NICS aims to provied a type of workbench that allows data users and data providers to exchange the tools and resources they have developed in order to better utilize what's "out there".

Initiatives across communities nationwide have spurred the development of tools to better analyze conditions at the local level. These include:

Tool Types:

Data

Metadata

Mapping

Spatial Statistics

Programming

Data Manipulators

- MapInfo Geocoders

Metadata tools

- Stylus Studio 2006 - XML Developer
- Metadata tools for geospatial data - This page leads to summaries of most of the known metadata tools used for documenting geospatial data and serving geospatial metadata. It includes tools for entering and editing metadata and utilities for preprocessing, extracting, postprocessing, validating, and viewing metadata. Most of these tools were designed to help complete Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) metadata, but several have been tuned to produce specific local metadata profiles.

Mapping tools

- GeoDa - The free program provides a user friendly and graphical interface to methods of descriptive
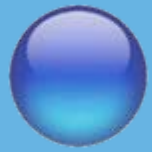
Addressing Key Challenges: Metadata

- NICS will require dataset providers to include metadata sufficient to allow users to understand data sources, methods, and definitions

- NICS will provide access to metadata tools and resources
    - Guides to metadata preparation
    - Tools for attaching metadata
    - Library of metadata standards
    - Information regarding collaborative topic-specific (e.g. justice, environment) metadata efforts

Progress To Date: Metadata

- Reconnaissance and research regarding standards and tools

- Initial Guidelines developed, basic elements identified

- Integrating efforts with the FEA DRM, FGDC, and Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Alliance

- Enlisting technical expertise in development of standards and tools

NICS Can Make Your Metadata Development Efforts Worthwhile

- Access to tools and resources

- Direct access to technical experts

- Community of Practice that leverages knowledge and experience of other data providers

- Beta test initial metadata applications