

**From:** [Kyle Walker](#)  
**To:** [Catherine Tulley](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming changes to the tigris and tidycensus R package  
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Subscribers,

Many of you have subscribed to this list due to your use of / interest in the **tigris** and **tidycensus** R packages for working with US Census data. I'd like to inform you of some important upcoming changes to the packages in the coming months.

By the end of February, I'll be submitting an updated version of **tigris** to CRAN with a **default year of 2020 for all functions**. This means that default requests for enumeration units like Census tracts or block groups that do not specify the year will return the updated boundaries drawn for the 2020 Census.

[As we got the good news that the 2016-2020 American Community Survey data will be released on March 17](#) (and the PUMS data two weeks later), **tidycensus** will be updated as well in the coming months. After testing on the

new data (likely in mid-April), the new CRAN version of **tidycensus** will default to a year of 2020 in both its `get_acs()` and `get_pums()` functions. This means that default data will reflect new Census geographies for the 5-year ACS, and specifying the year will be required to get data at all from the 1-year ACS as **tidycensus** does not support the 2020 experimental 1-year estimates.

If you are a regular user of these packages, I'd recommend the following:

- If you are using **tigris** and / or **tidycensus** in production code, hard-code the year to avoid any surprises when the packages update.
- [Follow me on Twitter](#) as I'll be posting regular updates on these R packages as well as information about an upcoming free workshop series on the new decennial Census and ACS data.
- Bookmark my book [Analyzing US Census Data: Methods, Maps, and Models in R](#). The online book will be updated to reflect these changes over the next month prior to its final submission to CRC Press for production and publication later this year.

I'm also available to discuss consulting engagements at [kyle@walker-data.com](mailto:kyle@walker-data.com) to help with this or any of your Census, GIS, or spatial data science needs.

Kyle



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