**Why Choropleths?**

We selected choropleths to represent the population distribution of each race in Kansas City over time, since the data was more interesting to display geographically than in, say, a density plot or a bar plot. For every block group, we took the population in each racial category and divided it by the total population of that block group, resulting in a percentage. This data was then divided up into deciles. The choropleth shows which block groups have higher percentages of each race. We can tell from the maps that block groups in red have the highest percentage of a certain race, while block groups in off-white have the tenth highest percentage of that race.

**Advantages/Disadvantages**

Choropleths are advantageous over other types of graphs because they have a geographic dimension to them, which can let you identify clusters with certain characteristics. They also allow you to look at every block group separately. If we were to make a bar plot depicting the population change from 2000 to 2010 for each block group, we would have a very long chart; however choropleths make this comparison compact.

However, in using choropleths, we must somehow bin the data into general categories. Using a bar plot or such would allow us to get more accurate readings off the chart, giving us exact populations rather than population (percentage) ranges. Also, if we had data over several years (instead of just two years, ten years apart) we would be able to make density plots over time which would show trends that would not be visible just by comparing several choropleths side-by-side.

**Distribution of people identifying as 'American Indian' in Kansas City (2000 and 2010)**

In 2000, we see a concentration of American Indians in the northern part of the city center. However, in 2010, the population seems to have spread out, being evenly distributed across the Kansas City center.

Compared to other races, there hasn’t been much of a change in the population density of American Indians in Kansas City. In the city center, we can see that there has been some migration (perhaps) from east to west: while population in the east has dropped, that in the western block groups has increased. In the outskirts of the city, the population has remained quite stable with an exception in the north, where the percentage of American Indians has increased.

**Distribution of people identifying as 'Asian' in Kansas City (2000 and 2010)**

From the general map, we can see a definite increase in population of Asians from 2000 to 2010. In 2000, Asians were largely concentrated in two parts in the city center: a small area just north of the center of the map, and the south-western quadrant of the Zoomed-in map. In 2010, the first cluster seems to have dispersed toward the south, giving rise to Kansas City’s “Chinatown,” according to tripadvisor.com and similar sites.

This could signify the fact that Asians have become more populous and more prosperous in Kansas City from 2000 to 2010. It is interesting to note that the populations of Asians in both the suburbs and in downtown have increased greatly, suggesting that it is not merely a migration of Asians from downtown to the suburbs (or vice versa) but that both young professionals and middle-aged families are moving to Kansas City, downtown and suburbs, respectively.

**Conclusion**

This shows that Kansas City is a growing city with promising opportunities for people of ages, and of all family-sizes.