**Getting Started**

**Data Collection from Census API**

An [API](https://www.twilio.com/docs/glossary/what-is-an-api) is an application programming interface - in short, it’s a set of rules that lets programs talk to each other, exposing data and functionality across the internet in a consistent format.

The Census API provides a variety of data obtained through out several years. From this information, we were able to obtain specific pieces of data that specifically pertained to our project. Some of this information includes, median household income, working population, median home values, etc.

**Using the API**

The Census API can navigated through several links based on the specific data being requested. A detailed overview of the use of the Census API can be found at https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/training-presentations/20180614\_API.pdf

**Resources**

## Resource URL

<https://api.census.gov/data/2017/acs/acs5/profile?get=DP04_0089E,NAME&for=zip%20code%20tabulation%20area:28312>

## Resource Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Response formats | JSON |
| Requires authentication? | YES |

## Parameters

## The census has various parameters based on the data being specifically requested. Generally, you are required to enter the year for the table, the census timeframe (1, 3, or 5 years), the table name, and the geographical location. The geographical location can be as broad as the country or as specific as a zip code however each table has varying specificities.

## Example Request

<https://api.census.gov/data/2017/acs/acs5/profile?get=DP04_0089E,NAME&for=zip%20code%20tabulation%20area:28312> (Key generally follows here)

## Example Response

After you submit your request successfully you should get back something that looks like this:

[["DP04\_0089E","NAME","zip code tabulation area"],

["124800","ZCTA5 28312","28312"]]