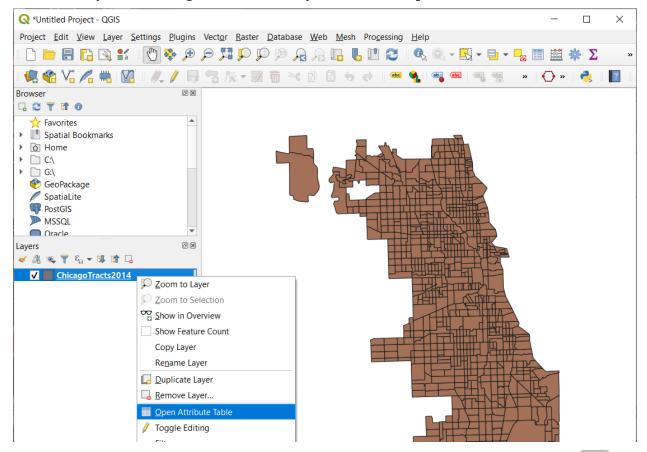
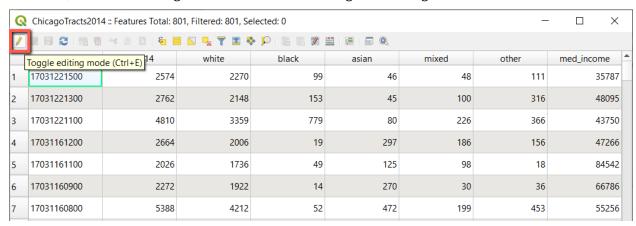
## Use QGIS Field Calculator: Calculate Polygon Area

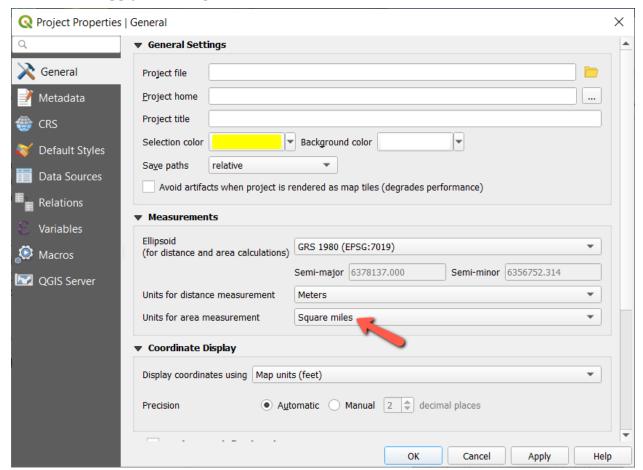
- Open QGIS Desktop and Add the Vector Layer
- In the Layers Panel, right-click on the layer and select **Open Attribute Table**.



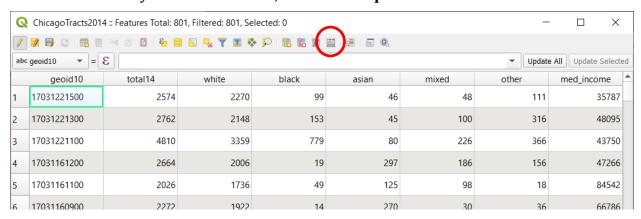
• In the Attribute Table dialog window, click on the **Toggle editing mode** button (see image below). The editing mode will allow you to make changes to the attribute table, such as *creating a new column* or *deleting an existing column*.



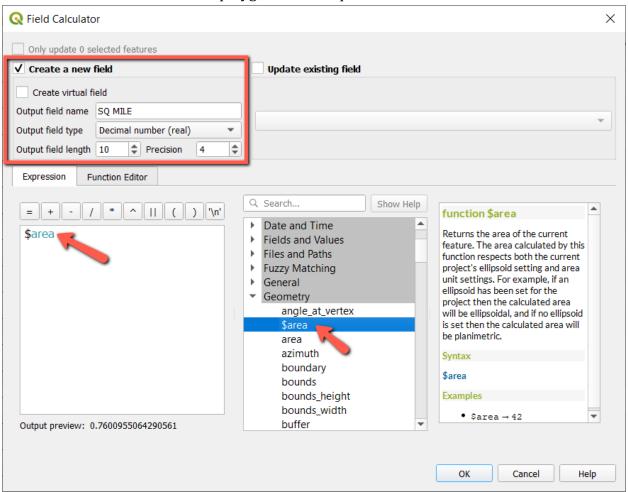
- Now, we are about to create a new field to calculate polygon areas in square miles.
  Before doing this in QGIS, we need to figure out the area unit
  - In the main QGIS window, select Project > Properties > General
  - The default area measurement unit is shown under Measurements. The Chicago layer is in Square meters. Use the dropdown menu to select Square miles and click OK to apply the change.



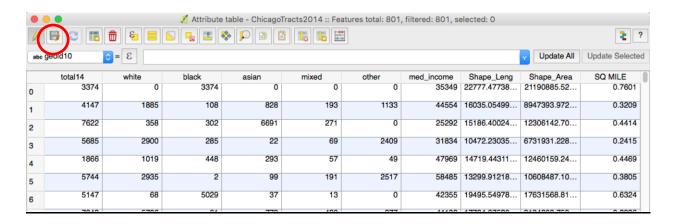
• Return to the layer's attribute table, click on the **Open field calculator** button



- In the Field calculator window, make the following changes:
  - Check the box next to Create a new field (we will create a new field to hold the area values)
  - o Set the Output field name as **SQ MILE** (this is the name of the new field)
  - o Set the Output field type as **Decimal number (real)** (the data type of the new field)
  - Set Output field width as 10 (total number of digits), Precision as 4 (number of decimal places)
  - Enter the Expression to calculate "\$area. You may double-click the \$area function from the Geometry section to add it.
  - Click **OK** to calculate the polygon area in square miles.



Be sure to save your changes by clicking on the Save Edits button



• Then click on the **Toggle editing mode** button again to exit the editing mode. Then close the attribute table.