Conducting Research in the ACRDC

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Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau.
Main Phases of RDC Project

• Develop proposal
• Submit proposal for agency review
• Obtain Special Sworn Status (SSS)
• Conduct analysis within ACRDC lab
• Submit results for Disclosure Avoidance Review
• Provide working paper and benefits to Census
Developing a Census Proposal – 1st Steps

- Explore Census datasets available in the RDC: [http://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/index.html](http://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/index.html)
  - Economic Data
    - establishment or firm level
  - Demographic Data
    - household or individual level
  - Combined Employer/Employee Data
    - Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD)
Economic Datasets - 38

- Economic Census – Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Services, Construction, Finance, etc.
- Annual Survey of Manufactures
- SSEL/Business Register
- Longitudinal Business Database (LBD)
- Survey of Business Owners
- Business Research and Development & Innovation Survey (BRDIS)
- Foreign Trade Data – Exports/Imports
Demographic Datasets

- Decennial Census (Long-form, 100% sample)
- American Community Survey
- Current Population Survey (March supplement only)
- Survey of Income and Program Participation
- American Housing Survey
- National Crime Victimization Survey
Advantages of Census Microdata

• For economic data:
  – No publicly available microdata

• For demographic data:
  – More detailed geography (often Census tract)
  – Less top-coding/censoring
  – Additional variables

• For both types:
  – Ability to link with other datasets via employer and individual identifiers
1st Steps Continued

• For Health Data:
  – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
    http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/onsite_datacenter.jsp
    • Medical Expenditure Panel Survey
  – National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
    http://www.cdc.gov/rdc/B1DataType/Dt122.htm
    • National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
    • National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
    • Linked Data Files (NHANES w/ Mortality, Medicare, Social Security Benefits)
    • Many More!
1\textsuperscript{st} Steps Continued

- Search CES working paper series
  \url{http://ideas.repec.org/s/cen/wpaper.html}
- Examine survey questionnaires and documentation
- Contact the ACRDC Administrator (me):
  \url{mbanzhaf@frbatlanta.org}
  – Draft a 2-3 page outline of your project idea
    (research question, data sets, methodology)
Develop Full CES Proposal

- Length: 20-30 pages
- Emphasis on project’s benefits to Census and research methodology
- Development is an iterative process with the ACRDC administrator
Benefits – 13 Criteria

1. Evaluating practices, continued relevance
2. Demog., econ. processes that affect Census programs
3. Increasing utility of data for analyzing public programs, public policy, and/or demographic, economic, or social conditions
4. Conducting data collection, processing or dissemination
5. Understanding/improving the quality of data
6. Improved methodology to collect, measure, or tabulate
7. Enhancing the data collected (e.g. imputation, links)
8. Limitations/improving the Business Register
9. New data collection needs
10. Constructing, verifying, improving sampling frames
11. Estimates/characteristics of population
12. Methodology for estimating non-response
13. Developing statistical weights for a survey
Methodology

• Which datasets?
• Which years?
• Why do you need internal Census data?
• How will you link datasets?
• What are the key variables?
• What types of equations will you estimate?
• What types of results will be released?
Census Proposal Review

- Feasibility
- Requirement of benefits to Census
- Scientific merit
- Statistical purpose
- Need for non-public data
- Risk of disclosure
- Availability of resources
Final Steps in Proposal Process

- Other Agency Review
- Special Sworn Status application
- Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta badge application
Timeframe – “Patience is a Virtue”

- Proposal Development ≈ 3 months
- Proposal Review ≈ 4 - 8 months
- SSS application ≈ 2 - 3 months
- Overall ≈ 9+ months for Census proposals
- Timeframe may be shorter for NCHS and AHRQ projects
Information and Contacts

• Atlanta Census Research Data Center
  http://aysps.gsu.edu/acrdc/index.html
• Center for Economic Studies
  http://www.census.gov/ces/

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