Introduction to the Wisconsin Census Research Data Center

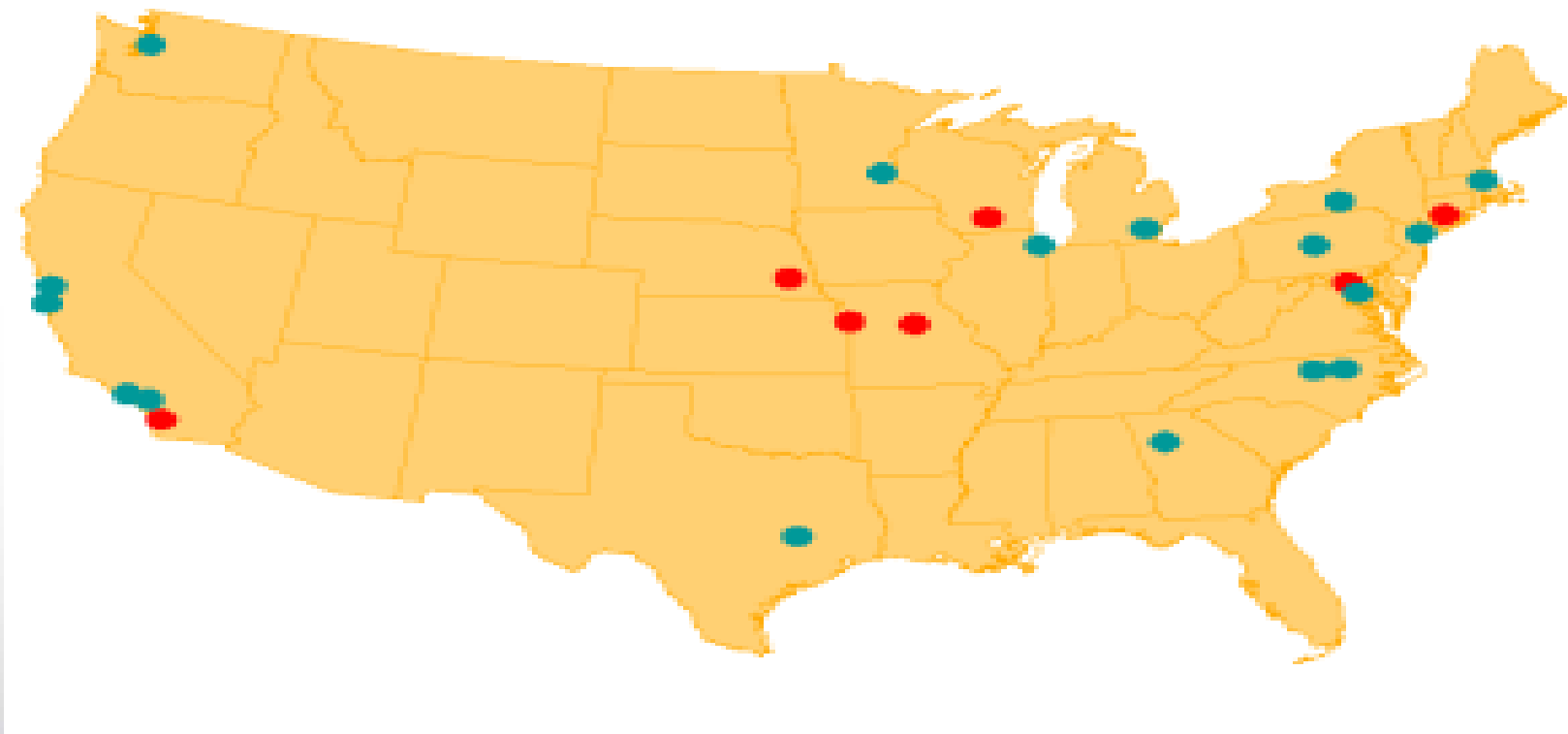## *Demographic Projects*

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U.S. Census Bureau

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What is the RDC?

- Secure computing labs where qualified researchers conduct approved statistical analysis on non-public data

- Non-public data are collected by Census Bureau and other government agencies

- To be located in Sewell Social Sciences

RDC Program

Why use RDC data?

- Greater detail and finer geography

- Ability to link or use previously linked datasets
  - LEHD
  - Many datasets have Personal Identification Keys (PIKs)

- Some datasets have no public use version

RDC vs. PUMS data

- Lower levels of geography
- No top-coding
- Larger samples
- Greater detail in variables
  - Race
  - Place of birth
  - Write-in responses
  - Disease codes

Available Data

- **Decennial Surveys**
  - (1960), 1970 , 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010
- American Community Survey (ACS)
  - Annual microdata, 1996-2011
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
  - March & December Supplements

Available Data

- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
- American Housing Survey (AHS)
- National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
- National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG)
- National Longitudinal Mortality Study (NLMS)
- National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS)
  - Young/Mature Men/Women
- Administrative data
  - SSA, HUD

Available Data

- LEHD
  - Employer/employee linked data based on state unemployment records
    - Individual Characteristics Files
    - Employment History Files
    - Employer Characteristics Files
  - State by state approval

Available Data

- Recovered Data
    - Additional CPS supplements as early as 1962
    - ASM as early as 1954

Linking Possibilities

- Internal data with PIKs or firm/establishment identifiers
  - Both surveys and administrative data
- External data CAN be linked
  - Unique individual identifiers (e.g. SSN, EIN, name, address)
  - Variables contained in both datasets (e.g. geography)

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Research from the MnRDC

Demography (2014) 51:1101–1130
DOI 10.1007/s13524-014-0288-7

**More Than One Million New American Indians
in 2000: Who Are They?**

Carolyn A. Liebler · Timothy Ortyl

Published online: 10 April 2014
© Population Association of America 2014

- Dave Frisvold & Jason Fletcher
  - Approved last spring
  - CPS Food Security Supplement

Getting Access

Census Application Process

- Identify need for data
  - www.census.gov/ces/
- Contact the RDC administrator
  - Preliminary proposal
  - 2-page summary
- Proposal and PPS
- Census (and additional agency) review

Components of Census Proposals

- Abstract

- Description of the project

- PPS (aka Benefits statement)

Project Description

- Introduction
  - Research question
  - Why you need this data
  - Benefit to Census
- Background/literature
  - Very brief (1 page single spaced)
- Methods (Focal section)
  - Data used
  - Proposed linkages
  - Analytic methods
- Plans for disclosure and disclosure risk
- Timeline and RDC usage needs

Uniqueness of Census Data

- No IRB

- No informed consent

- Mandatory participation

- Laws govern use of data (Title 13, Title 26)
  - Require "predominant purpose" be to benefit Census Bureau programs

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Predominant Purpose Statement (1)

1. Evaluating concepts and practices underlying Census Bureau statistical data collection and dissemination practices, including consideration of continued relevance and appropriateness of past Census Bureau procedures to changing economic and social circumstances

2. Analyzing demographic and social or economic processes that affect Census Bureau programs, especially those that evaluate or hold promise of improving the quality of products issued by the Census Bureau

3. Developing means of increasing the utility of Census Bureau data for analyzing public programs, public policy, and/or demographic, economic, or social conditions

4. Conducting or facilitating census and survey data collection, processing or dissemination, including through activities such as administrative support, information technology support, program oversight, or auditing under appropriate legal authority

*Demographic projects only

Predominant Purpose Statement (2)

5. Understanding and/or improving the quality of data
6. Leading to new or improved methodology to collect, measure, or tabulate a Title 13, Chapter 5 survey, census, or estimate
7. Enhancing the data collected
   - Improving imputations for non-response
   - Developing links across time or entities for data
8. Identifying the limitations of, or improving, the underlying Business Register, Master Address File, and industrial and geographical classification schemes used to collect the data
9. Identifying shortcomings of current data, collection programs and/or documenting new data collection needs
10. Constructing, verifying, or improving the sampling frame
11. Preparing estimates of population and characteristics of population
12. Developing a methodology for estimating non-response
13. Developing statistical weights

Notes about Census Proposals

- Plan ahead
  - At least 6 months to a year to get access
- Work with the RDC Administrator
- Written for a data expert rather than a content expert
  - IRS may also be a reviewer and should be considered
- Description limit is 15 pages single spaced (30 pages double)

Special Sworn Status

- Off-line paperwork and documentation
- On-line trainings and certifications
- Background check
  - Submitted online and followed with interview
    - Residential history
    - Foreign travel
    - Education and employment history
    - References
- Fingerprinting

Research Environment

Working Environment

- All work must be completed in the RDC lab

- Computing environment

  - Preliminary output viewed in the RDC

  - No internet access

  - Unix environment

  - Software: SAS, Stata, R, Matlab (others may be available)

- NCHS researchers must work when administrator is on duty

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Disclosure Processes

- No output can leave RDC without review

- Plan ahead

- Performed by RDCA or the agency disclosure officer

  - Review process worked out in proposal stage

    - Turn around generally 1-2 weeks but plan for 3-4 weeks

    - Descriptive data can be problematic

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Next steps

Expected Timeline

- Lab expected to open summer 2015
- Begin developing projects now
  - Check out www.census.gov/ces/
  - Contact me
  - Begin working on proposal
- Following approval, submit application for SSS

How to contact me?

- Email: rachelle.hill@census.gov
- Phone: 612-626-4365
- Schedule: Monday - Thursday & every other Friday
  - Maternity leave
    - 6 weeks off (early March through mid April)
    - 6 weeks reduced schedule (10 hours per week, mid April through late May)

- Meetings:
  - Plan to visit at least once more before March

Additional Slides

Text Box 4-1.
RECOVERED DATA: HIGHLIGHTS

The economic and demographic data recovered from the Unisys will be valuable additions to the data already available at the Center for Economic Studies (CES) and the Research Data Centers (RDCs).

Most files will require additional work before they can be used for research purposes, and some may require approval by sponsoring agencies. Examples of data recovered from the Unisys include:

- Earlier years of series already available at CES
  - Censuses of Mining, Retail, Wholesale, and Services
  - Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM)
  - Survey of Industrial Research and Development (SIRD)
  - Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises
  - Commodity Transport Survey (now called the Commodity Flow Survey)
  - Decennial Census data
    - ~ Puerto Rico sample and complete count files
    - ~ U.S. Possessions sample and complete count files
  - Selected Current Population Survey (CPS) March Supplements

- Series not currently available at CES
  - Agriculture Surveys and Censuses
  - Annual Survey of Oil and Gas
  - Heating Fuel Survey
  - Water Use Survey
  - Survey of Construction
  - Income Surveys Development Program
  - CPS Supplements for months other than March

- New variables for series already available at CES
  - Census of Manufactures (CM) special inquiries data
  - ASM Central Administrative Office data
  - ASM and CM data flags

- Historical analysis files (see Text Box 4-2)
  - Industrial Time Series data
  - Linked CM/SIRD data created for Zvi Griliches

Information about Health Projects

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Available Data

- AHRQ
  - MEPS-HC
- NCHS
  - National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
  - National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
  - National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)
  - National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)
  - National Health Care Surveys – NAMCS, NHAMCS, NHDS, NNHS, NNAS, NSRCF, NSLTCP

Research from the MnRDC

© Health Research and Educational Trust
DOI: 10.1111/1475-6773.12189
THEME ISSUE: STATE HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

Expanding Coverage to Low-Income Childless Adults in Massachusetts: Implications for National Health Reform

Sharon K. Long and Heather Dahlen

- Jean Abraham and Anne Beeson Royalty
  - Recently approved
  - MEPS-IC
  - How the provision of employer health insurance and employment outcomes are changing following the implementation of ACA.

NCHS Application Process

- Determine need for data

- Determine mode for accessing data (WI RDC)

- Prepare proposal for the agency
  1. Defined research question
  2. Identified needed restricted variables
  3. Access disclosure risk
  4. Mode of access

- Submit proposal to agency and wait for comments

AHRQ Application Process

- Contact the AHRQ Data Center manager
- Prepare proposal for the agency
- Submit proposal to agency and wait for comments

- Criteria
  - Feasibility
  - Risk of Disclosure
  - Supporting resources for the researcher
  - Fits the mission of AHRQ

Notes about NCHS and AHRQ projects

- Fees for applying, merging, and technical assistance
- Relatively quick timeline
- Work directly with the agency and assigned analyst

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