University of Wisconsin Census Research Data Center (WiscRDC)

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Outline

• Timeline
• Budget and funders
• Data and research opportunities
• Application process
• Recommended workflow
• Questions
Timeline

- Under construction now (3308-3310 SS)
- Penciled in for “early summer” opening
- Official opening in Fall (Tim returns)
- Accepting project proposal NOW
- Hiring RDC Administrator NOW
Funding

- Approx. $700K over 3 years
- Steady state 150-200/year
- 6 colleges (SMPH, WSB, SOHE, CALS, SOE, L&S), Graduate School, Provost.
- Joint submission with MnRDC (we’re a “branch” of their RDC)
What and Why

- Secure computing with non-public data
- Finer detail and geography
- Linking with PIKs
- No access through public sources
RDC vs. PUMS

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

- Decennial Surveys
- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Annual microdata, 1996-2011
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
- March & December Supplements
- 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
- LEHD
- Employer/employee linked data based on state unemployment records
- Individual Characteristics Files
- Employment History Files
- Employer Characteristics Files
- State by state approval
Economic Data

- Economic Census
- ASM, ARTS, AWTS, SAS
- LBD and ILBD
- Quarterly Financial Report (QFR)
- Survey of Business Owners (SBO)
- MEPS-IC
- Longitudinal Foreign Trade Transactions Database (LFTTD)
- Kauffman Firm Survey*
- LEHD*

- Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES)
- Business Research & Development and Innovation Survey (BRDIS)
- Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3)
- Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures (PACE) and Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS)
- Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)
National Employment Time Series

• Complete universe (in theory) of U.S. enterprise, 1990-present
• Employment
• Revenue
• Location
• Activity status
• Merger
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)
ACCESSING AND USING THE RDC
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 and 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 and 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
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
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
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
QUESTIONS?