



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# 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

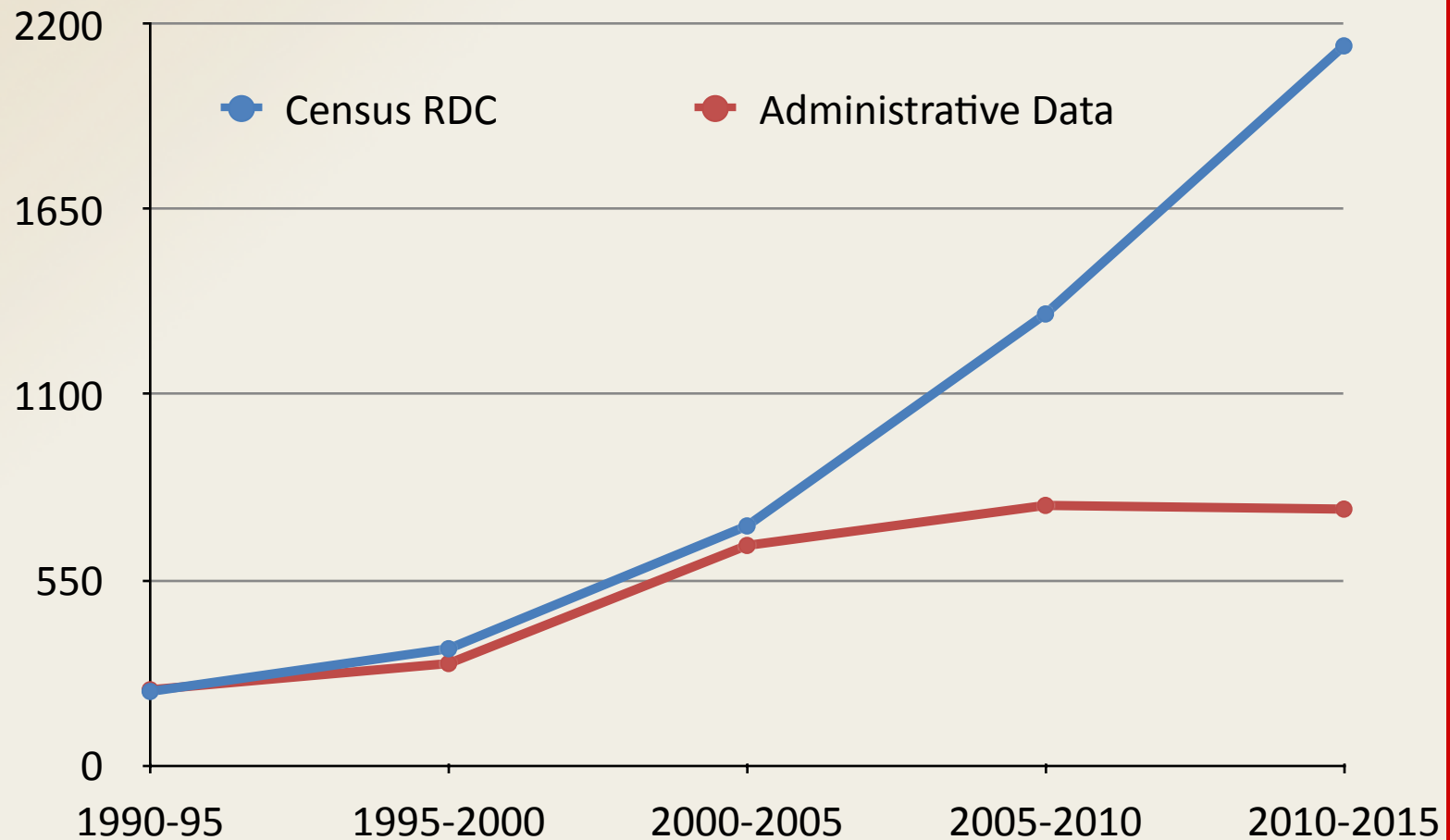
# Timeline

- 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)

# Google Scholar Search



# 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
- (1960), 1970 , 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010
- 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, AWTSS, 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/](http://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?