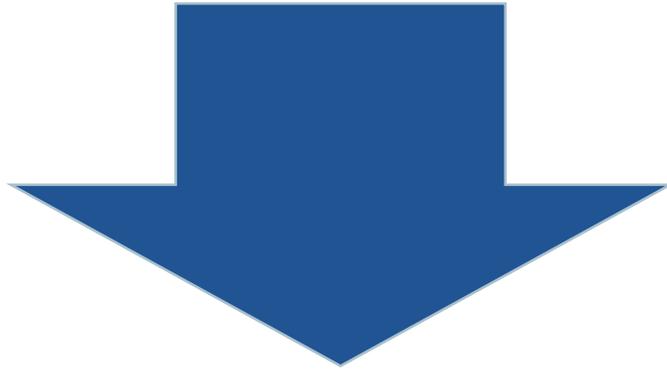


Broad Roles for Administrative and Third-Party Data in the ACS

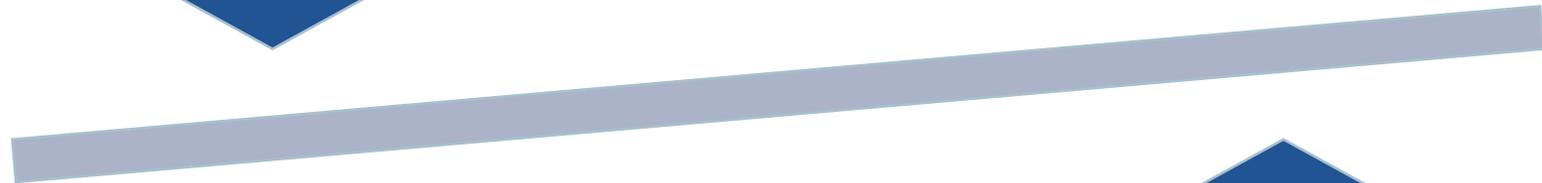
Jennifer M. Ortman
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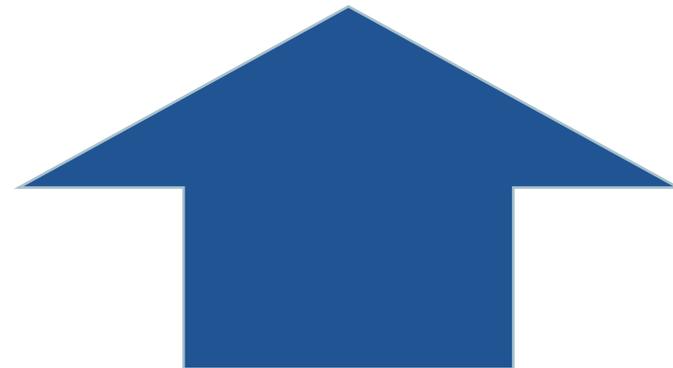
Striking a Balance



Declining response rates as well as growing concerns about **privacy and confidentiality** of data challenge our ability to collect information using surveys.



Society demands **more data** at a **rapid pace** to meet the needs of the changing landscape of America's communities.



What are Administrative Records?

- Administrative records and third party data refer to micro data records contained in files collected and maintained by administrative (i.e., program) agencies and commercial entities.
- Government and commercial entities maintain these files for the purpose of administering programs and providing services.
- Administrative records are distinct from systems of information collected exclusively for statistical purposes, such as those the U.S. Census Bureau produces under the authority of Title 13 of the United States Code (U.S.C.).
- The Census Bureau uses, and seeks to use, administrative records developed by federal agencies, tribal, state, and local governments as well as data from commercial entities.

Administrative Sources

Federal data

- U.S. Census Bureau
- Internal Revenue Service
- Housing and Urban Development
- Childcare Development Fund
- Medicaid and Medicare
- Social Security Administration
- Veteran's Affairs
- U.S. Postal Service
- Selective Service

State and Local data

- Women, Infants, and Children
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Child Care Subsidy
- Public school districts

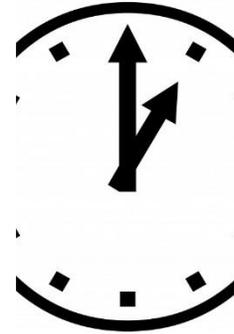
Third Party data

- Corelogic property and tax foreclosure
- VSGI consumer households

Why and How to Use Administrative Data?



Increase data quality by filling in missing responses and using administrative data to evaluate and enrich survey data



Save time and improve respondent experience by reducing the number of questions asked on the ACS



Provide cost savings by identifying vacant housing units and reducing the need for followup visits



Mandated by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to use already available information

What Administrative Sources are Appropriate?

- The Census Bureau has established a set of guiding principles to determine what sources are appropriate for use on the ACS.
- These principles are used to evaluate each potential source to determine the suitability of using the administrative source either in place of asking a question on the survey or for editing and imputation of survey data.

12 Guiding Principles

Authorization

Availability

Conceptual Alignment

Coverage

Data Source

Disclosure Avoidance

Impacts on Estimates

Intended Use

Population Universe

Quality

Reliability

Temporal Alignment

What Have We Done?

- Evaluated the coverage and quality of administrative records (government and third-party sources) to identify the most promising sources.
- Tested direct replacement of ACS housing items (year built, acreage, property value, and real estate taxes) to evaluate impact on data products.
- Tested modeling and direct replacement of ACS income items to evaluate feasibility of replacing or augmenting the ACS income questions.
- Tested the use of administrative records for item imputation of race, Hispanic origin, and age.

What Are the Challenges to Using Administrative Data?

- Issues with matching administrative records to census/survey records
- Inconsistencies in geographic coverage (state, county, town, etc.)
- Leveraging data designed for different uses
- Government versus non-government sources
- Time lags and differences in time period covered

The Promise of Administrative Records

- Leveraging existing data sources through linked approaches will be an important component of demographic research in the coming years.
- The field of survey research is shifting and we must do what we can to leverage other data sources to enhance, supplement, or in some cases replace what we gain from surveys.
- The Census Bureau is engaging the use of administrative records at all stages of the survey life cycle.

Thank You!

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