

Census Research Data Centers: NYCRDC Baruch

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Outline

Census RDCs and applied research

Data available

Proposal process

Working at NYCRDC Baruch

Further information

Census RDCs and applied research

Census RDCs

- are partnerships between the Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies (CES) and research institutions
- give researchers access to confidential Census Bureau microdata for approved research projects
- benefit the Census Bureau by increasing the utility and quality of Census data products

Census RDCs and applied research

Census RDCs offer qualified researchers

- access to Census Bureau microdata
 - covering businesses, individuals and households
 - non-public data
 - no PUMS equivalent
 - containing information excluded/aggregated in public data
- opportunity to enhance Census Bureau programs

Census RDCs and applied research

Center for Economic Studies (CES)

- Research unit at Census, created in 1982 to provide secure access to confidential microdata

RDCs

Boston 1994

Michigan 2002

UC Berkeley 1999

Chicago 2002

UCLA 1999

New York Cornell 2004

Research Triangle 2000

New York Baruch 2006

www.ces.census.gov

Census RDCs and applied research

Why is access to microdata restricted?

Public perception of improper use could

- reduce response rates
- induce Congress to cut funding or entire program

Title 13 U.S.C. protects confidentiality

- identifying microdata cannot be released
- only Census employees and temporary staff can look at individually-identifiable data
- this access must potentially provide legitimate benefits to Census Bureau programs

Census RDCs and applied research

“Without the availability of micro data on establishments it is unlikely that the work of Dunne et al (1989) or Davis and Haltiwanger (1992) would have had their current intellectual influence.”

-- Daniel Hamermesh, 2006

Census RDCs and applied research

“What we need is more empirical work. . . . This greater availability of data [through the Center for Economic Studies] and the encouragement given to all researchers working on the institutional structure of production by the award to me of the Nobel Prize, should result in a reduction in that elegant but sterile theorizing so commonly found in the economics literature on industrial organization and should lead to studies which increase our understanding of how the real economic system works.”

-- Ronald Coase, 1992

“Economic” research

(aka research on businesses)

Job creation & destruction

Firm dynamics

Market structure and productivity

Pollution abatement

Firm location and spillover effects

Trade and productivity

“Economic” research

(aka research on businesses)

Small businesses

Sectoral reallocation

Capacity utilization

Energy use

Technology adoption

Mergers, spin offs and asset sales

Employer provided health insurance

“Economic” research

Recent CES Discussion Papers

What Causes Industry Agglomeration? Evidence from Coagglomeration Patterns (CES-WP-07-13)

William Kerr, Edward Glaeser, Glenn Ellison

Estimating the Distribution of Plant-Level Manufacturing Energy Efficiency with Stochastic Frontier Regression (CES-WP-07-07)

Gale Boyd

Efficiency Implications of Corporate Diversification: Evidence from Micro Data (CES-WP-06-26)

Ekaterina Emm, Jayant Kale

The Production Decisions of Large Competitors: Detecting Cost Advantages and Strategic Behavior in Restaurants (CES-WP-06-19)

Clarissa Yeap

Older Workers' Access to Employer-Sponsored Retiree Health Insurance, 2000-2004 (CES-WP-07-12)

Elaine Zimmerman, Alice Zawacki, Christine Eibner

Firms in International Trade (CES-WP-07-14)

Andrew Bernard, J Bradford Jensen, Stephen Redding, Peter Schott

Demographic research

Poverty and inequality

Migration

Immigrant and neighborhood segregation

School quality and housing value

Demographic research

Social networks and labor markets

Crime rates

Female labor supply

Welfare reform

Smoking behavior

Linked Economic and Demographic research

LEHD projects

Human capital spillovers

Segregation in the workplace:
race/ethnic, sex, and skill

Economic data available at the RDCs

Annual Capital Expenditures Survey

Annual Survey of Manufactures

Business Expenditure Survey

Commodity Flow Survey

Economic Census

Construction

Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

Manufactures

Mining

Retail Trade

Services

Transportation

Wholesale Trade

Economic Census of Puerto Rico

Exporter database

Foreign Trade Data – Imports/Exports

LEHD Employer Characteristics, QWI

Longitudinal Business Database

Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (IC)

National Employer Survey

Quarterly Financial Reports

Research and Development Survey

Survey of Business Owners

Survey of Manufacturing Technology

Survey of Plant Capacity Utilization

Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures

See the complete list with descriptions at www.ces.census.gov

Linking economic data at the RDCs

Longitudinal Business Database (LBD)

- all establishments with employees
- history for each, 1976 to 2005
 - age/tenure employment, payroll
 - industry establishment births, deaths
 - geography
- can link LBD history to all other Census Economic data to create panel data
- Longitudinal Research Database was a precursor; LRD was the “panel” constructed for manufacturing sector

Linking economic data at the RDCs

Standard Statistical Establishment List (SSEL)

- link external data to Census economic data
- aggregate establishments up to a firm

SSEL-Compustat[®] bridge (2001)

- crosswalk to match Compustat IDs to SSEL & other Census Economic data

SSEL-LEHD bridge

- links LEHD employer data to SSEL & other Census Economic data

Other linkage using geography, industry, etc.

Demographic data available at the RDCs

American Community Survey

American Housing Survey

1990, 2000 Decennial Long Form

Current Population Survey March Supplements

National Longitudinal Mortality Study

National Longitudinal Survey (original cohorts)

Survey of Income and Program Participation

...linkage is possible at detailed levels of geography

Data soon to be available

Historical Decennial Data (1970, 1980)

Integrated Longitudinal Business Database

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Household
Component

Survey of Business Owners (2002)

*Interested in other Census Bureau data?
Talk to the RDC Administrator*

National Center for Health Statistics data

NCHS RDC data now available through the
Census RDCs

NCHS-data-only proposals for projects at a
Census RDC

- do not need to be approved by Census, only NCHS
- do need to be entered in Census Bureau system
- if approved, researchers must also obtain SSS

Proposals combining NCHS and Census RDC
data must also meet Census Bureau criteria

NCHS Data

National Health & Nutrition Examination Survey I, II, III
National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey
National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey
National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery
National Hospital Discharge Survey
National Nursing Home Survey
National Home and Hospice Care Survey
National Employer Health Insurance Survey
National Health Provider Inventory
National Health Interview Survey 1967-2005
National Immunization Survey
Longitudinal Study on Aging
National Survey of Family Growth
Vital Statistics (Birth, Mortality, Marriages and Divorces, Fetal, Death National Death Index)

State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey

- Health
- Child Well-Being and Welfare, 1997
- National Survey of Early Childhood Health
- National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs
- National Survey of Children's Health
- National Asthma Survey
- National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs

NCHS data (cont'd)

National Health Interview Survey with Mortality Data 1986-2000

National Health Interview Survey with Medicare Enrollment and Claims Data 1991-2000

National Health Interview Survey with Social Security Administration Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Data 1962-2003

National Health Interview Survey with Social Security Administration Supplemental Security Income Data 1974-2003

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey I Epidemiologic Follow-up Study with Mortality Data 1971-2000

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey I with Medicare Enrollment and Claims Data 1991-2000

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey I with Social Security Administration Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Data 1962-2003

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey I with Social Security Administration Supplemental Security Income Data 1974-2003

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey II with Mortality data 1976-2000

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey II with Medicare utilization and expenditure Data 1991-2000

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey III with Mortality Data 1988-2000

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey III with Medicare Enrollment and Claims Data (CMS-1991-2000)

Proposal process

Proposal criteria

- Benefits to the Census Bureau
- Scientific merit
- Need for non-public data
- Disclosure risk
- Feasibility

Review Process

- Internal reviewers (Census employees)
- External reviewers (subject-matter experts)

Proposal process

Talk to the NYCRDC Administrator

Proposals include:

1. Preliminary information entered on CES web site
2. Project description and abstract
3. Statement of benefits to Census
4. Researcher accounts on CES web site

Benefits to the Bureau

Benefits Statement

- "The predominant purpose of this study is to increase the utility of Title 13, Chapter 5 data of the Census Bureau by meeting the criteria listed below and as described."

Benefits criterion listed on CES web site—examples:

- Understanding and/or improving data quality
- Enhancing the data
- Identifying shortcomings and/or documenting new data collection needs
- Preparing estimates of population and characteristics of population

At project end, technical memo and working paper (part of contract)

Funding for access to NYCRDC

Currently, use is free if researcher is part of member institution

NSF-funded projects can use NYCRDC free until May 2009

Non-members can use NYCRDC for a fee
– Build into grant proposals

Working at NYCRDC Baruch: RDC Computing

RDC data are accessed via “thin client”
Linux/UNIX

SAS, Stata, Gauss

Documentation for data is on servers and
available from RDC Administrator

Secure space has cubicles and drawers to lock
up project materials

Research assistance is available for projects
from member institutions (some limitations)

Working at NYCRDC Baruch: Disclosure and confidentiality

No output allowed out of the RDC unless it has been cleared for disclosure

- Release of intermediate output discouraged
- Projects must emphasize statistical models vs. tabular output

Penalty for advertent or inadvertent disclosure
(\$250,000 and/or 5 yrs in prison)

Only researchers with approved projects and
Census Special Sworn Status can enter

NYCRDC Baruch

Centrally located at Baruch College

NYCRDC Baruch

135 E 22nd St, Room 801

New York, NY 10010

Computers are available outside the secure RDC area to access the internet and publicly available research-related materials.

NYCRDC Baruch

Our funders

National Science Foundation

Office of the Manhattan Borough President

Member institutions:

Baruch College
City University of New York
Columbia University
Cornell University
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Fordham University
National Bureau of Economic Research
New York University

Pace University
Princeton University
Russell Sage Foundation
Rutgers University
Stony Brook University/SUNY
University at Albany/SUNY
Yale University

More Info

www.ciser.cornell.edu/NYCRDC/home.shtml

www.ces.census.gov

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Resources for learning about RDC data and projects

CES web site

- data descriptions
- discussion papers
- Annual Report
- CES seminar series
- NCHS

NYCRDC web site

- Helpful Links

Census web site

- survey/program pages
- Census program contacts

RDC and CES staff

RDC Researchers

Cornell/CISER's

Virtual RDC

Information sources to help identify benefits to Census

- Potential RDC Methodological Topics
- Census Bureau program contacts
- CES Annual Report
- CES Discussion Papers
- Research Opportunities at the Census Bureau
- Summary of Census Bureau Research Problems Identified by Senior Staff
- RDC Administrator