

Building the Future U.S. Census Bureau

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Outline

- The Changing World of Social and Economic Statistics
- Recent Changes at the Census Bureau
- Partnerships with Academia

5 Observations

1. The difficulties of measuring the busy, diverse, and independent American society and economy are increasing every year (that is, it costs more money to do the same things the Census Bureau has done for years).

2. The demands by American business, state, local, and community leaders for statistics on their populations are continually increasing.

3. New technologies are being invented almost daily that can be used to make it more convenient for the American public to participate in these efforts to inform us about the status of the country.

4. New digital data resources are being created both from Federal-state-local government programs, private sector transactions, and internet-related activities.

5. Near-term Federal government budgets are likely to be flat or declining.

Profound Conclusion

1. Higher costs
2. More demand
3. New technologies
4. New data resources
5. No new money

Conclusion: current practices are unsustainable

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Census Bureau Change

1. Structural reorganization
2. Operational efficiency program
3. Development program
4. Human resources' activities
5. Outreach

1. Structural Reorganization

- Research and Methodology directorate
- 2020 Census directorate
- Risk management office
- Enterprise IT architecture
- Restructuring of Regional Offices

2. Operational Efficiency Program

- Proposals sought from all staff
 - Three year investment payoff
- Proposals sent directly to director office
- Social media voting on proposals
- Over 1,000 proposals in two years
- Millions of dollars of savings

3. Development Program

- New products and features
 - Combining data sets
 - Expanded small area estimation
 - Mixed-mode systems

3. Example Development Project: A Three Step Process at Enhanced Dissemination

- Common external metadata
- API and app development
- Visualization

4. Human Resources' Activities

- Senior executive mobility program
- Creation of “Senior Technical” positions
- Corporate hiring program
- Rotation program

5. Outreach

- “Evergreen” partnership activities
- Reconstitution of advisory committees
- Redesign of web sites

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Partnerships with Academia

- The 1940-1970's of research in social and economic measurement at the Census Bureau
 - Unusual collection of career researchers
 - Fundamental contributions to demography and statistics and economics
- The modern scientific world of global collaborations
- The need for a network
 - Research data centers
 - NSF-Census Research Network
 - Other research partnerships

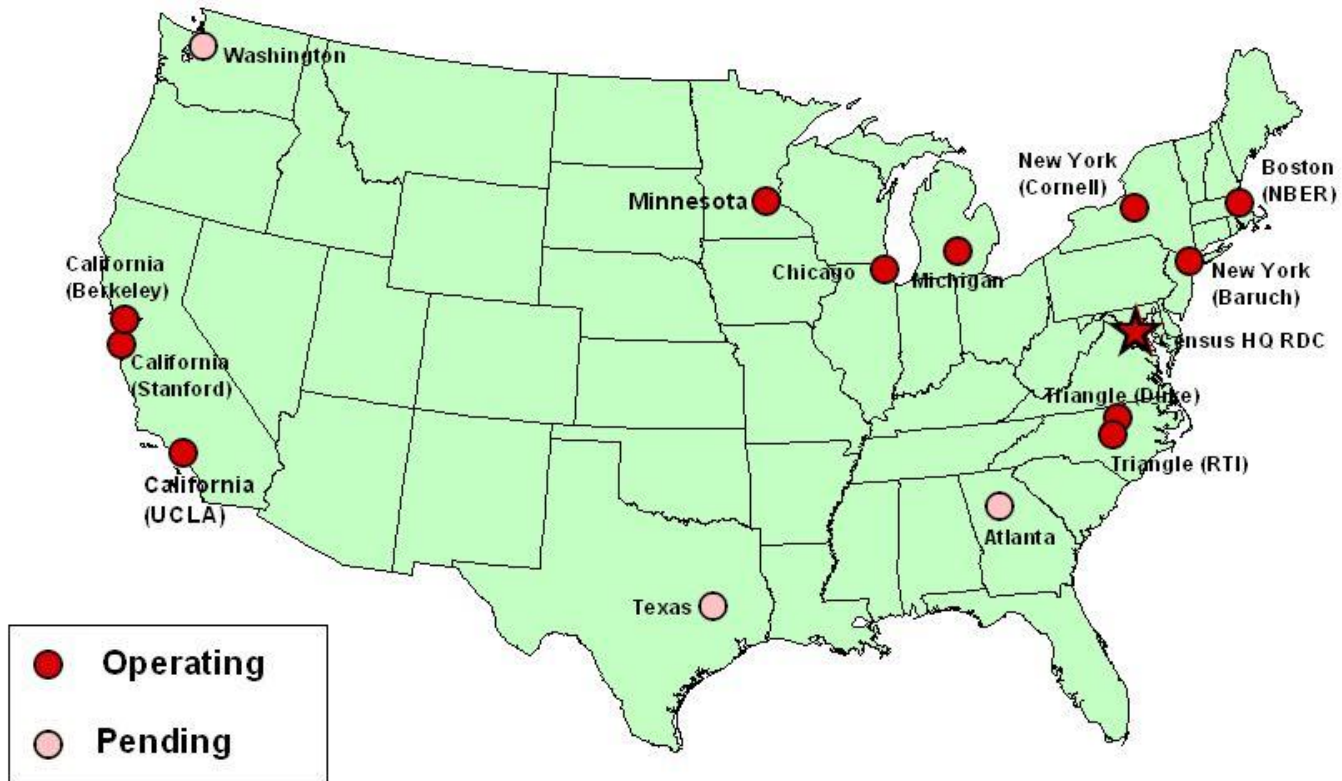
The Basic Bond Between Academics and Census

- Devotion to understanding society and economy
- Realization that active analysis of data is necessary to extract such insights
- Devotion to continuous improvement in measurement and estimation

The Role of Research Data Centers

- A tool for curiosity-driven research
- A tool for widening the set of minds accessing Census Bureau data
- A tool for interdisciplinary research
- A tool for advance queries of confidential data that cannot be pursued with public use files

Census Research Data Centers



RDC Mission and Implementation

- The RDC Network provides secure access to confidential Federal statistical data to authorized researchers.
- Each RDC operates as Joint Partnership between the Census Bureau and the research institution.

Expansion of the RDC Network

- Increasing number of active users
 - >30% in FY2010
- Expanding number of locations
 - From 9 to 12 locations in 2010 – more locations in process
 - RDC branches have allowed for more rapid and less costly expansion
- Increasing amount of data available
 - New Census Bureau data sets
 - Historical data recovery efforts extended time series for many currently available data sets
 - Hosting data from other agencies (currently NCHS, NSF, and AHRQ)

Data Available at the RDCs

- Census Bureau Data
 - Establishment or firm level data
 - Demographic data
 - household or individual level
 - Linked Economic/Demographic data
 - Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD)
- Other Agency Data
 - Health Data
 - National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
 - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Advantages to using RDC Data

- Linking data sets
- Economic Data:
 - No publicly-available microdata
 - Internal data at establishment/firm level
- Demographic Data:
 - More detailed information than public use
 - Full variables (not top-coded)
 - Finer geography

More Aggressive Support of Research

- The NSF-Census Research Network
 - First nodes launched Fall, 2011
 - Planned support for network activities
 - Set of Faculty and pre-doctoral students
 - Interdisciplinary, problem oriented

The Role of NSF-Census Research Network

- Development of a set of researchers and PhD students interested in Census Bureau research domains
- Collaboration with Census Bureau scientists
- Faster, broader scope of innovation

Other Research Partnerships

- Dissertation fellowships
- Post-doctoral fellows
- Summer at Census

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