AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY:  
RESEARCH APPLICATIONS AND CHALLENGES

Monday-Friday, June 15-19, 2009

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

Monday, June 15

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:15 Introductions of Course Instructors and Participants

9:15-9:30 Barry Edmonston: Overview of the Workshop Agenda

9:30-5:00 See agenda prepared by U.S. Census Bureau

5:00-7:00 Reception  
Room TBA  
Michigan Union

Tuesday, June 16

9:00-9:15 Introduction and Overview of Schedule for Tuesday-Friday

9:15-10:15 ACS Concepts, Definitions, and Overview (this session will emphasize key points from Monday’s presentations and include additional discussion of topics not covered sufficiently in the first day)

1. ACS overview
2. ACS data collection process
3. Population control for sample estimates
4. Coverage of housing units, persons, and group quarters
5. Key definitions
6. Differences from traditional census sample data
   a. Data content: what’s in the questionnaire  
   b. Variable definitions
   c. Temporal aggregation: reference date, reference period, and multi-year data
   d. Residence rules

10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:00  ACS Data, Part I
1. Data types and structure

11:00-12:00  Computer lab exercises
1. Accessing ACS profiles
2. Accessing ACS tables: viewing tables
3. Table topics
4. Accessing tables: tables by type and geography

12:00-1:30  Lunch

1:30-1:45  Introduction to afternoon schedule

1:45-2:30  Presenter TBA
ICPSR Data Activities

2:30-2:45  Break

2:45-3:30  Interpreting ACS Data
1. Sources of error
2. Counts, proportions, and other measures
3. Sampling error
4. Sampling weights
5. Imputation

3:30-5:00  Computer lab exercises
1. General methods for accessing tables
2. Importance of universe selected
3. Standard errors
4. Confidence intervals
5. Statistical tests: difference of means and proportions
6. Case Study A: obtain descriptive statistics, prepare charts, and measure changes for a designated community.
7. Case Study B: prepare similar tables for several MSA’s, using means and descriptive statistics for the comparisons

Wednesday, June 17

9:00-9:15  Overview of activities for Wednesday

9:15-10:00  ACS Data, Part II
2. Geographic concepts: Nation….Blocks; MSA, incorporated places, administrative areas
3. Data access
4. Cumulative samples
5. Multi-year statistics
10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-10:45 Accessing ACS Data: PUMS
1. Data availability by geography and multiyear
2. Record types: housing units and persons
3. Accessing data

10:45-12:00 Computer lab exercises
1. Accessing PUMS data
2. Simple forms of analysis: housing units
3. Simple forms of analysis: persons
4. Case Study C: prepare tables for labor force participation rates for males and females by age, comparing foreign-born and native-born; prepare charts for comparison (a data set will be available for analysis)

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30-1:45 Introduction to afternoon schedule

1:45-3:00 Advanced ACS Analysis
1. Merging ACS data with other administrative data: present example using ACS with administrative data for Portland Public Schools to show relationship of births, new housing construction, and changes in school enrollments
2. PUMS record linkage: show example of linking housing unit data to head of household for analysis of homeownership; show example of linking husbands and wives for analysis of racial intermarriage; show example of linking parents and children for analysis of children and their parents

3:00-3:15 Break

3:15-4:45 Computer lab exercises
1. Case Study D: linking housing and person records for analysis of homeownership rates (a data set will be available for analysis)
2. Case Study E: linking children and mother records for analysis of maternal characteristics associated with children in poverty (a data set will be available for analysis)
Thursday, June 18

9:00-9:15  Overview of activities for Thursday
9:15-10:00  Working with Multi-Year Estimates
10:00-10:15  Break
10:15-11:00  Computer lab exercises
   1. Case Study F: analysis of multi-year estimates of childhood poverty in Alabama
11:00-12:00  Contextual Variables
12:00-1:30  Lunch
1:30-1:45  Introduction to afternoon schedule
1:45-3:00  Computer lab exercise
   1. Case Study G: linking contextual variables for Michigan counties and analysis of 2008 Presidential election results
3:00-3:15  Break
3:15-5:00  Discussion of projects of individual interest in small groups. Each workshop participant should be prepared to give a five-minute to the group about their interest and data analysis plans and to have five minutes for group discussion.

Friday, June 19

9:00-9:30  Discussion of individual project plans.
9:30-12:00  Computer lab exercise
   1. Case Study H: work on project of individual interest
12:00-1:30  Lunch
1:30-4:00  Presentation of individual projects and discussion
4:00-5:00  Final wrap-up and adjournment