

Knowledge Transfer at the Census Bureau

**Opening Ceremony for the Dallas-Fort Worth Research Data Center
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Disclaimer

Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. All results have been reviewed to ensure that no confidential information is disclosed.

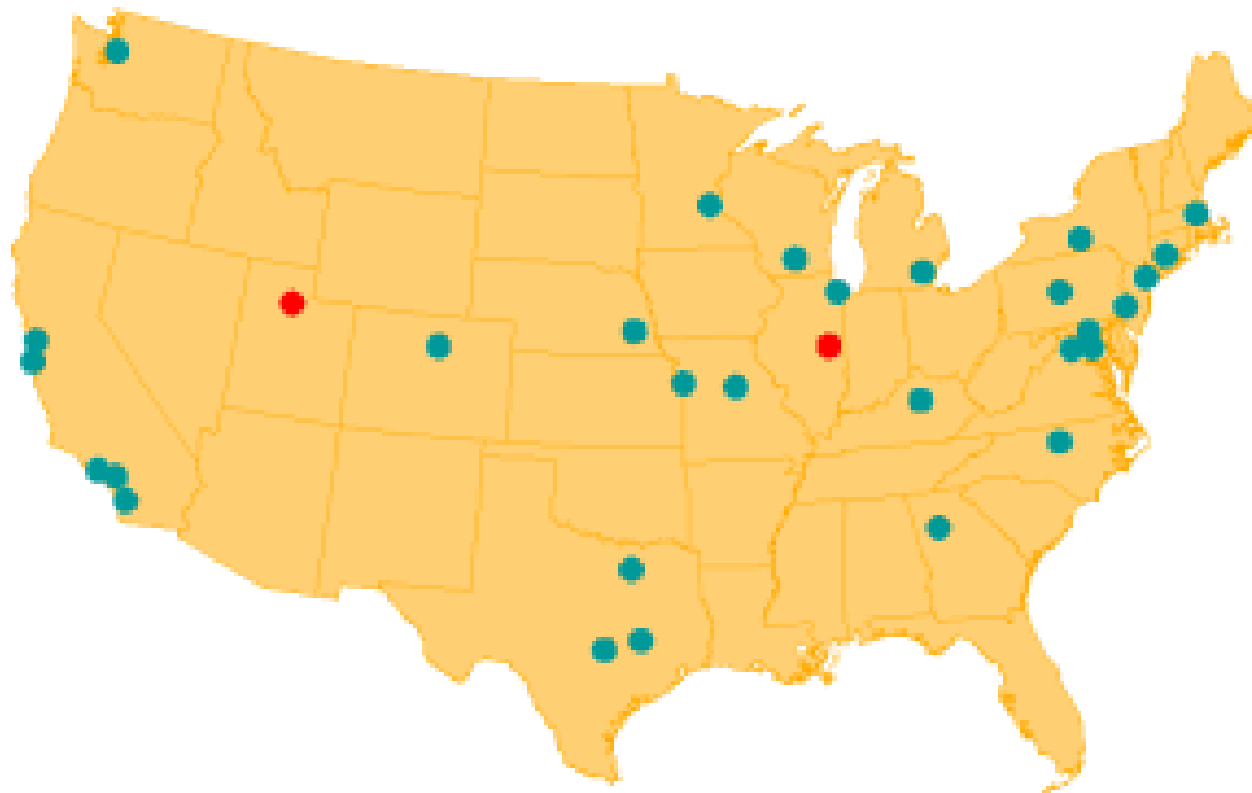
Overview

- Welcome
- Community of Scholars
- Benefits requirements of Census data research
- Description of knowledge transfer
- How knowledge transfer works
- Knowledge transfer curation challenges
- Two examples of researcher-reported project benefits

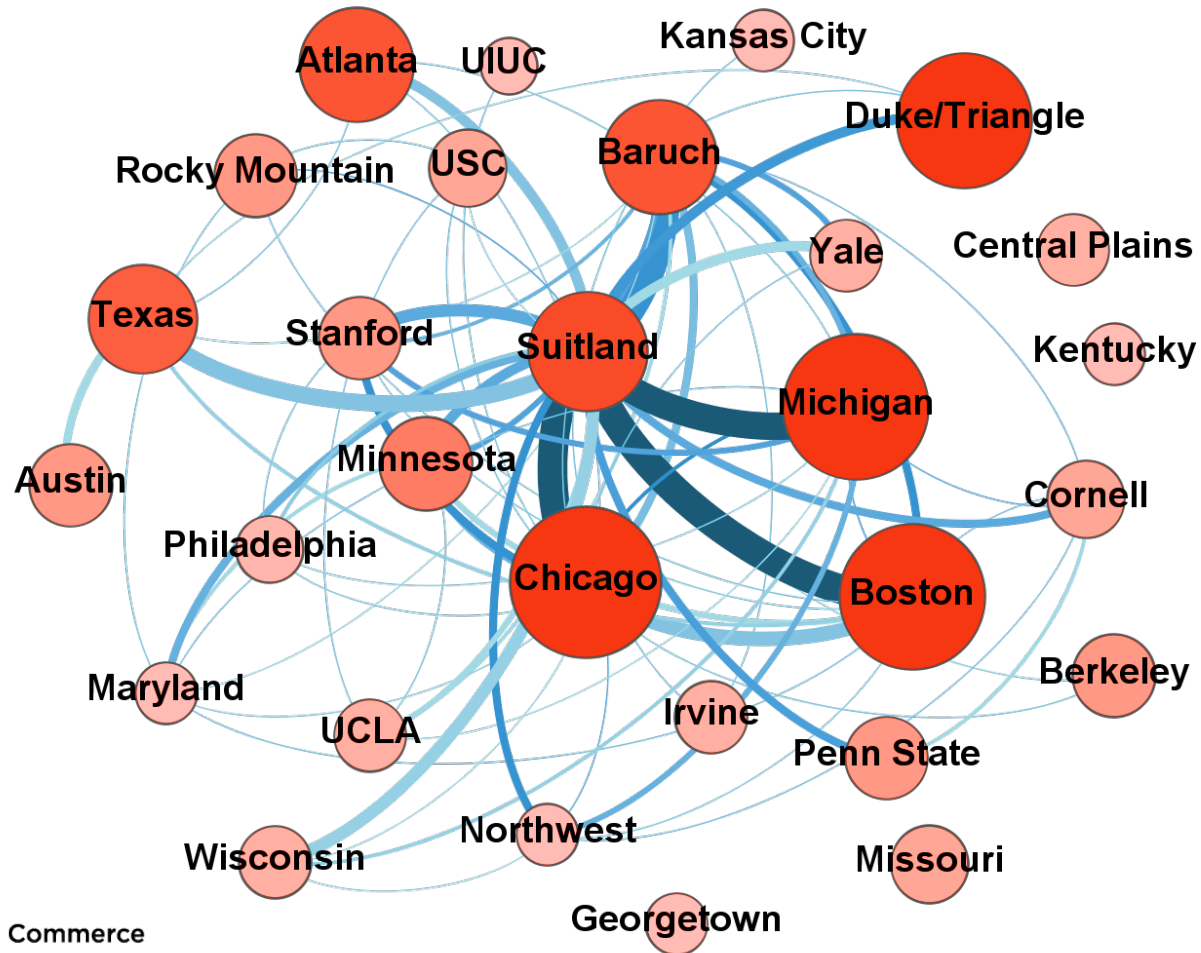
Welcome!

- The Census Bureau and the FSRDC network are delighted to welcome the Dallas-Fort Worth Research Data Center as the 29th member of our research community.
- FSRDCs support the Federal Statistical System's mission and vision by:
 - Increasing the transparency of government statistics by enabling researchers to use confidential data while safeguarding against inappropriate disclosure
 - Educating future users of statistical data
 - Encouraging and facilitating continual improvements in existing data
 - Identifying data gaps and creating new information

Community of Scholars



Collaborations



Benefits Requirements of Census Data Research

- The predominant purpose of research projects using Census data is to benefit the Bureau by increasing the utility of its data
- Benefits include a wide range of in-depth substantive and methodological research, including:
 - Improving collection and dissemination
 - Enhancing data by improving imputations or linking data across time
 - Constructing, verifying, or improving sampling frame
 - Developing a methodology for estimating non-response or statistical weights
 - Preparing estimates of population and characteristics of population

Knowledge Transfer Process



Knowledge Transfer Curation Challenges

- Living database of beneficial research ideas
 - Elicit ideas from program offices
 - Monitor execution of ideas by program offices
 - Maintain records of ideas realized by researchers
- Warehouse of dataset-specific knowledge shared with researchers
 - Codebooks
 - Errors/fixes/cleanups
 - Imputation improvements
- Metadata attached to research outputs

Carolyn A. Liebler and Meghan Zacher, “American Indians without tribes in the twenty-first century.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 36: 11, 2013.

- Estimated model of non-response to tribal question in 2000 DC
 - About 1 million American Indian/Alaska Native non-respondents
 - Respondents less likely to respond to the tribal question if less educated, non-fluent in English, or live in metro areas
 - Recommended including “tribe unknown” option; explaining importance of tribal question; outreach to persons less likely to respond

Nicolas Crouzet & Neil R. Mehrotra, 2018. "Small and Large Firms Over the Business Cycle," Working Papers 18-09, Center for Economic Studies, U.S. Census Bureau.

- Wrote codebook documenting Quarterly Financial Report data.
- Linked the QFR files over time (including dealing with a change in firm identifiers in 2000) and developed consistent formats for balance sheet and income statements across all periods.
- Recreated sampling weights missing in microdata
- Found that small manufacturing firms are more cyclically sensitive than large firms, but these differences are not driven by differences in financial frictions; another explanation may be large firms' export exposure

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