Census of Governments

Presented to the
Association of Public Data Users
Annual Meeting

September 24, 2009

Disclaimer: This report is released to inform interested parties of research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.
Overview

• Introduction to the Census of Governments

• Historic Census of Governments Data, Products, and Usability

• 2007 Census of Governments – A Transition Year

• Beyond 2007 and Towards 2012
Introduction to Census of Governments

• Purpose of Census of Governments Program:
  – Provide comprehensive uniform economic statistics about state & local governments
    • Organization
    • Employment
    • Finance
  – Public sector counterpart to business, industry, and service economic data

• Conducted every 5 years ending ‘2’ and ‘7’
• Virtually no confidentiality restrictions
• All surveys are voluntary
Introduction to Census of Governments (continued)

• Government Organization
  – Determine number and types of governments
  – State & local government classification/type
    • General Purpose
      – State
      – County
      – Municipal
      – Township
    • Special Purpose
      – Special District
      – School District
      …and all of their dependent agencies and activities
    – Intergovernmental relationships
Introduction to Census of Governments (continued)

- Government Employment
  - Full-time/Part-time
    - Employees
    - Payroll
  - By Function/Activity

- Governments as Employers
  - 14.7% of civilian labor force
    - 1.8% from Federal Government
    - 12.9% from state and local governments

(March 2007) Source: BLS
Introduction to Census of Governments (continued)

- Government Finance
  - Revenues by Type
  - Expenditures by Characteristic & Function
  - Indebtedness by Term
  - Cash & Securities Holdings

- Finance Composed of “Nested” Surveys
  - State Government Taxes
  - State Government Finance
  - State & Local Government Pension Systems
  - Local Government Finance
Introduction to Census of Governments (continued)

- Governments as Producers
  - Share of real GDP (2009 Q2)
    - 19.9% for all governments
  - Source of Personal Income (2009 Q2)
    - 27.6% derived from government sources
  - Compared with Fortune 500
    - All States (CA = 5, NY = 8, SD = 350)
    - Fifty-nine local governments

Sources: BEA and Fortune
Historic CoG Data, Products, Uses

• Geographic Distinctions
  – State Government vs. State-Area
  – County Government vs. County-Area

• 1957-2002 Fixed Presentation Format
  – Volume series
    • Organization
    • TPV
    • Employment
    • Finance
  – State-Area
  – State-by-Type
  – Individual Unit (flat file)
Historic CoG Data, Products, Uses
Annual & Quarterly Surveys

- Annual Employment
  - Federal, State, and Local
  - State-Area
  - Individual Unit

- Annual Finance
  - State & Local
  - State-Area
  - Individual Units (upon request)

- Quarterly Tax
  - National Estimates
  - State Government Taxes
  - Quarterly and Year-to-Year trends

- Quarterly Retirement
  - Largest 100 Defined Benefit Systems
  - Types of Holdings
  - Quarterly and Year-to-Year trends
2007 Census of Governments
A Transition Year

- Organization
- State Descriptions
- Employment
  - State-Area
  - State-by-Type
  - Build-A-Table
- Finance
  - State, State & Local Pensions, State & Local
  - State-Area
  - State-by-Type
- Graphical Summary (First since 1982 CoG)
2007 Census of Governments
Build-A-Table

Select category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Government</th>
<th>State and All Local Political</th>
<th>Government Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Total Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Employees</td>
<td>3,201,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part Time Employees</td>
<td>6,396,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Employees</td>
<td>9,608,072</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retrieve data
Beyond 2007 Towards 2012

• CNSTAT: State & Local Government Statistics at a Crossroads

• Twenty-one Recommendations
  – Dissemination & Timeliness
  – Data Quality
    • Statistical
    • Operational
  – User Outreach
  – Strategic Planning
  – Research Program – Add Additional Value to Data
Beyond 2007 Towards 2012

Move from fixed presentation to interactive use

- **Build-A-Table**
  - Expand to State Finance
  - Reinstate Federal Finance
  - Add Annual Sample Years for Employment
  - Develop for Local Finance

- **Other**
  - Data Ferrett
    - Employment
    - Consolidated Federal Funds Report (CFFR)
    - State & Local Finance
  - American Fact Finder (after 2012)
Beyond 2007 Towards 2012

• Committed to CNSTAT recommendations
  – Reengineering
  – Data User Workshops
  – Research Program

• To be successful we need:
  – Your patience & support;
  – Your input as we propose and recommend suggestions and changes; and
  – Your assistance both in terms of input and helping to keep our response rates high
Thank You

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