

ACS Content Review Phases I, II, and III Data Analysis Results

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Background

The 2014 ACS Content Review builds upon earlier efforts begun during the comprehensive ACS Program Review to...

- Examine and confirm the value of each ACS question
- Confirm and update the legal basis for questions
- Gather input from federal agencies and other data users
- Analyze data using pre-specified criteria established by the ACS Subcommittee of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP)
- **Develop recommendations for ACS content that will provide the most useful information with the least amount of burden to the public**

Project Scope & Phases

Scope: All questions (and subparts) currently on the 2014 ACS Questionnaire

- **Phase I** – assess full survey content and identify questions for potential removal in 2016 survey year
- **Phase II** – assess availability of other sources
- **Phase III** – research modifications to existing questions

Facts about Content Review

Who provided us with information? →

What did we examine?

- All 72 survey questions
 - 24 Housing Questions
 - 48 Person Questions
- 126 Individual Survey Components

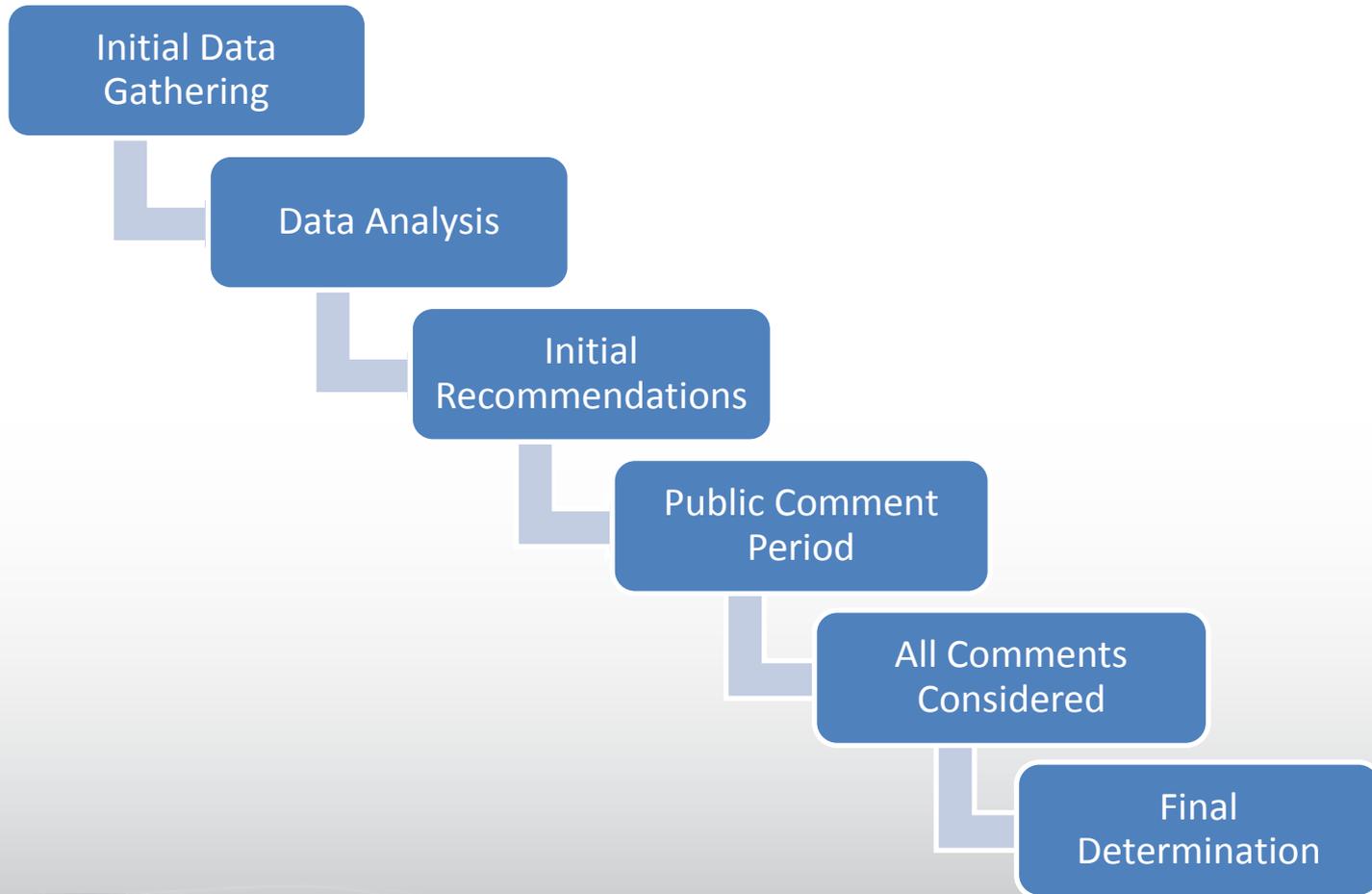
Growth in total known uses:

- 175 to 300+

Agency
• Agriculture
• Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
• Bureau of Economic Analysis
• Census Bureau
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• Education
• Energy
• Health and Human Services
• Homeland Security
• Housing and Urban Development
• Interior
• Nat'l Telecom. & Info. Administration

Agency
• Veterans Affairs
• Justice
• Environmental Protection Agency
• Transportation
• Labor
• Federal Communications Commission
• National Institutes of Health
• National Science Foundation
• Office of Management and Budget
• Social Security Administration
• Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Phase 1 Process



“Problematic” Topics Scored Well

Based on pre-specified criteria determined by the ACS Subcommittee of the ICSP...

- **Flush Toilets** – High Benefit/Low Cost
- **Disability** – High Benefit/Low Cost
- **Journey to Work** – High Benefit/Low to High Cost
- **Income** – High Benefit/Low to High Cost (mostly High Cost)

ICSP Subcommittee on the ACS

In August 2012, the Office of Management and Budget and the Census Bureau chartered the **Interagency Council of Statistical Policy (ICSP) Subcommittee for the ACS** to “provide advice to the Director of the Census Bureau and the Chief Statistician at OMB on how the ACS can best fulfill its role in the portfolio of Federal household surveys and provide the most useful information with the least amount of burden.”

Members include:

- Census Bureau Director, John Thompson, and OMB Chief Statistician, Katherine Wallman, Co-Chairs
- Three heads of statistical agencies –
 - Erica Groshen, Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner
 - Joseph Reilly, Director of the National Agricultural Statistical Service
 - Charles Rothwell, Director of the National Center for Health Statistics

Weighting Approach

For each geographic level (Block Group/Tract, Place/County/MSA, State/Nation) we examined legal uses – Mandatory (M), Required (R), or Programmatic (P)

Legal Definitions

- Mandatory – a federal law explicitly calls for use of decennial census or ACS data on that question
- Required – a federal law (or implementing regulation) explicitly requires the use of data and the decennial or the ACS is the historical source; or the data are needed for case law requirements imposed by the U.S. federal court system
- Programmatic – the data are needed for program planning, implementation, or evaluation and there is no explicit mandate or requirement

Notional Weighting Example

	Mandatory Uses	Required Uses	Programmatic Uses
Lowest Geographic Level is the Block Group or Tract	0	0	1
Lowest Geographic Level is Place, County or MSA	1	1	0
Lowest Geographic Level is State or Nation	0	0	1

Design Criteria- Benefits Extract

ACS Topic		Q#	Phase I Benefit Cluster Analysis								
			Federal Data Uses								
			Block Group/ Tract Level			Place/County/MSA Level			State/Natl. Level		
			M	R	P	M	R	P	M	R	P
Building/Structure Type and Units	H1	5	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	
Year Built	H2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	5	
Year Moved In	H3	5	0	5	5	0	5	0	0	5	
Acreage	H4	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	0	5	
Agriculture Sales	H5	0	0	5	0	0	5	5	0	5	

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Other Data Source	CV	IQR	Frame
5	5	3	5
5	5	1	0
3	5	1	0
3	5	5	0
1	5	3	0

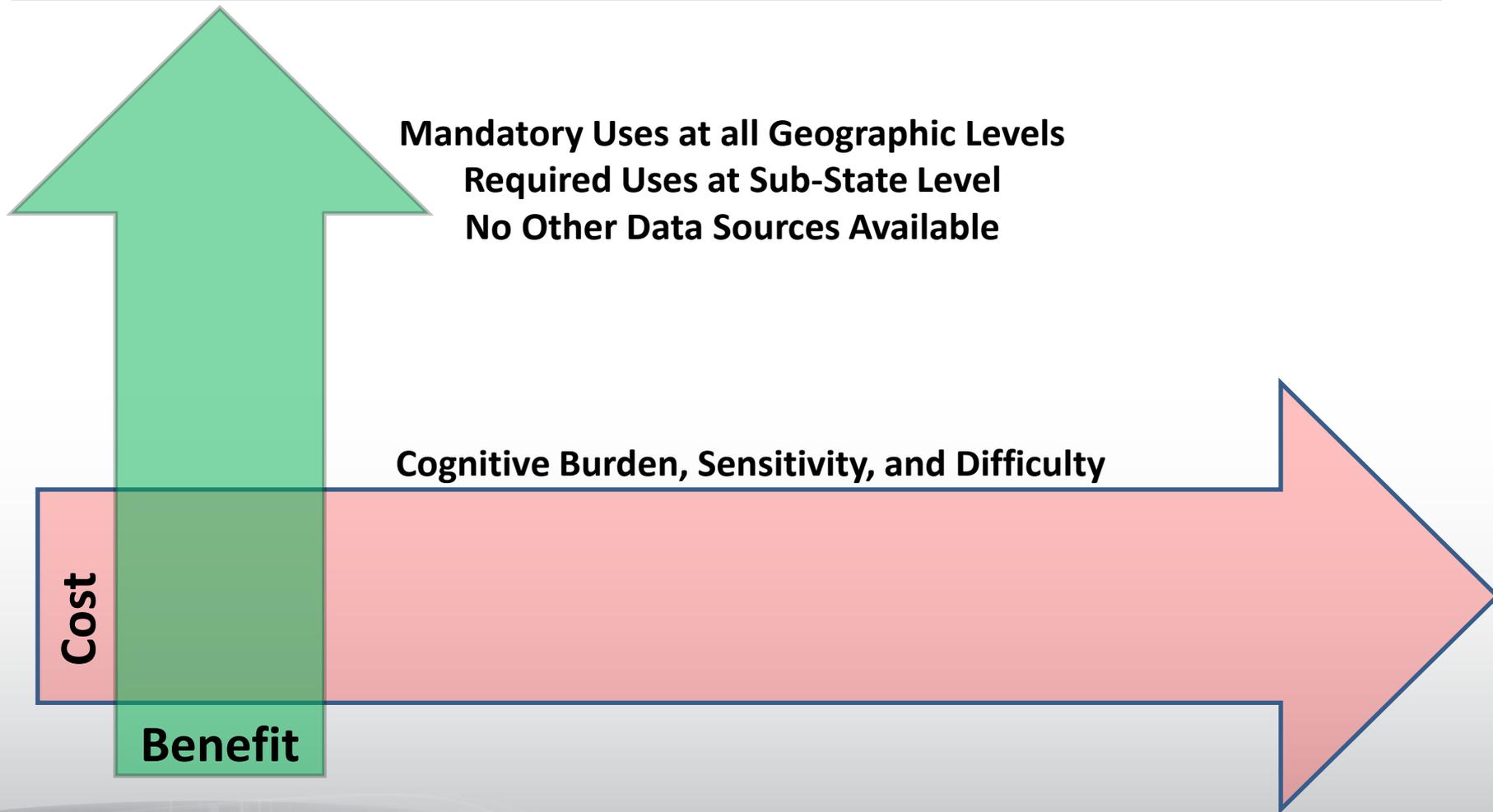
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Total Benefits	
78.45	H
80.60	H
57.99	H
52.17	H
37.78	L

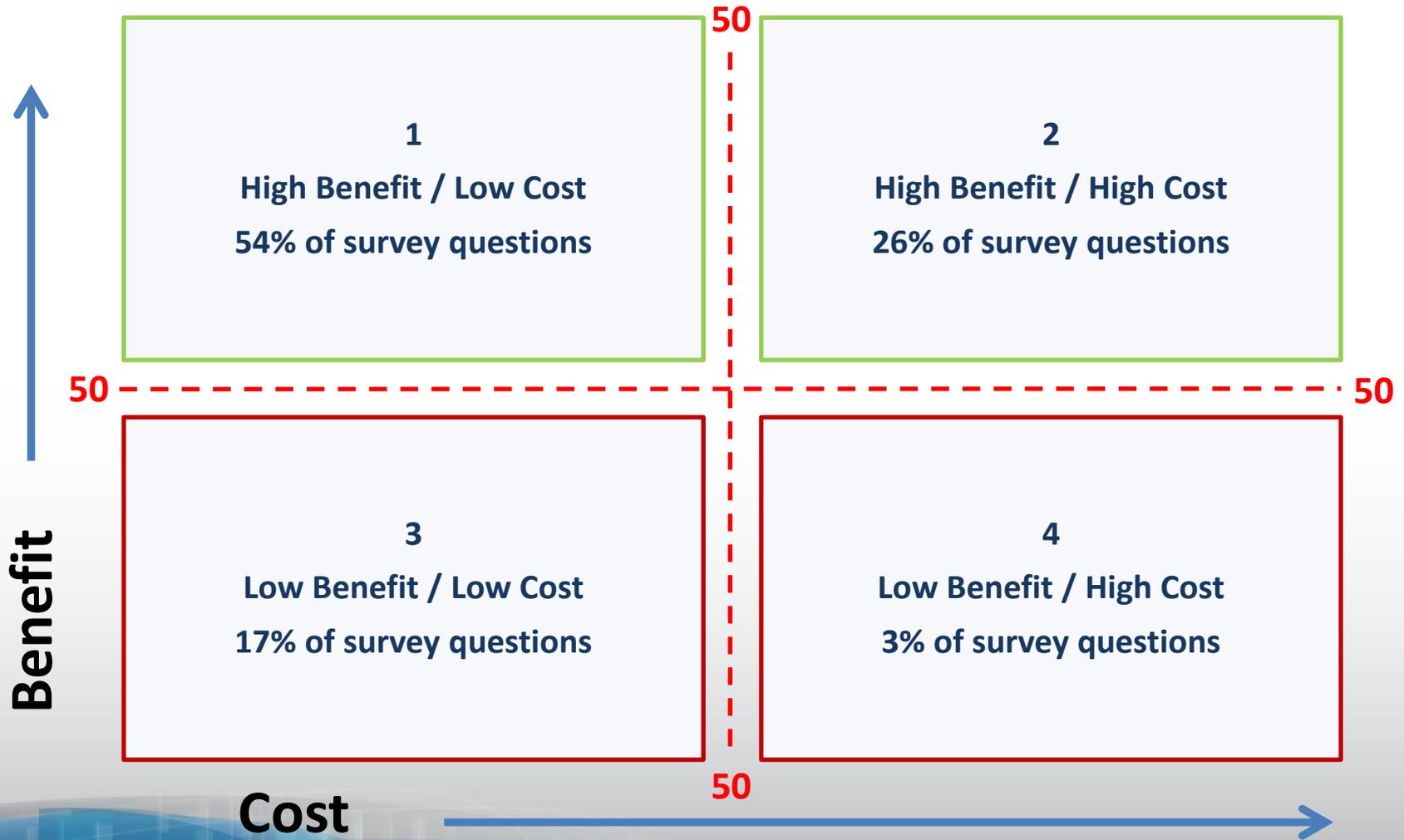
Design Criteria- Costs Extract

ACS Topic	Int. Survey Cognitive Burden (Clusters)	Int. Survey Sensitivity (Clusters)	Int. Survey Overall Difficulty (Clusters)	Adjusted Median Seconds to Answer (Clusters)	Allocation Rates (Clusters)	Complaints (Clusters)	
Building/Structure Type and Units	3	1	1	3	1	3	Total Costs
Year Built	5	1	3	3	3	3	
Year Moved In	3	1	1	3	1	3	
Acreage	3	1	1	1	1	3	
Agriculture Sales	3	1	1	1	1	3	
							37.00
							=
							60.40
							37.00
							33.00
							33.00

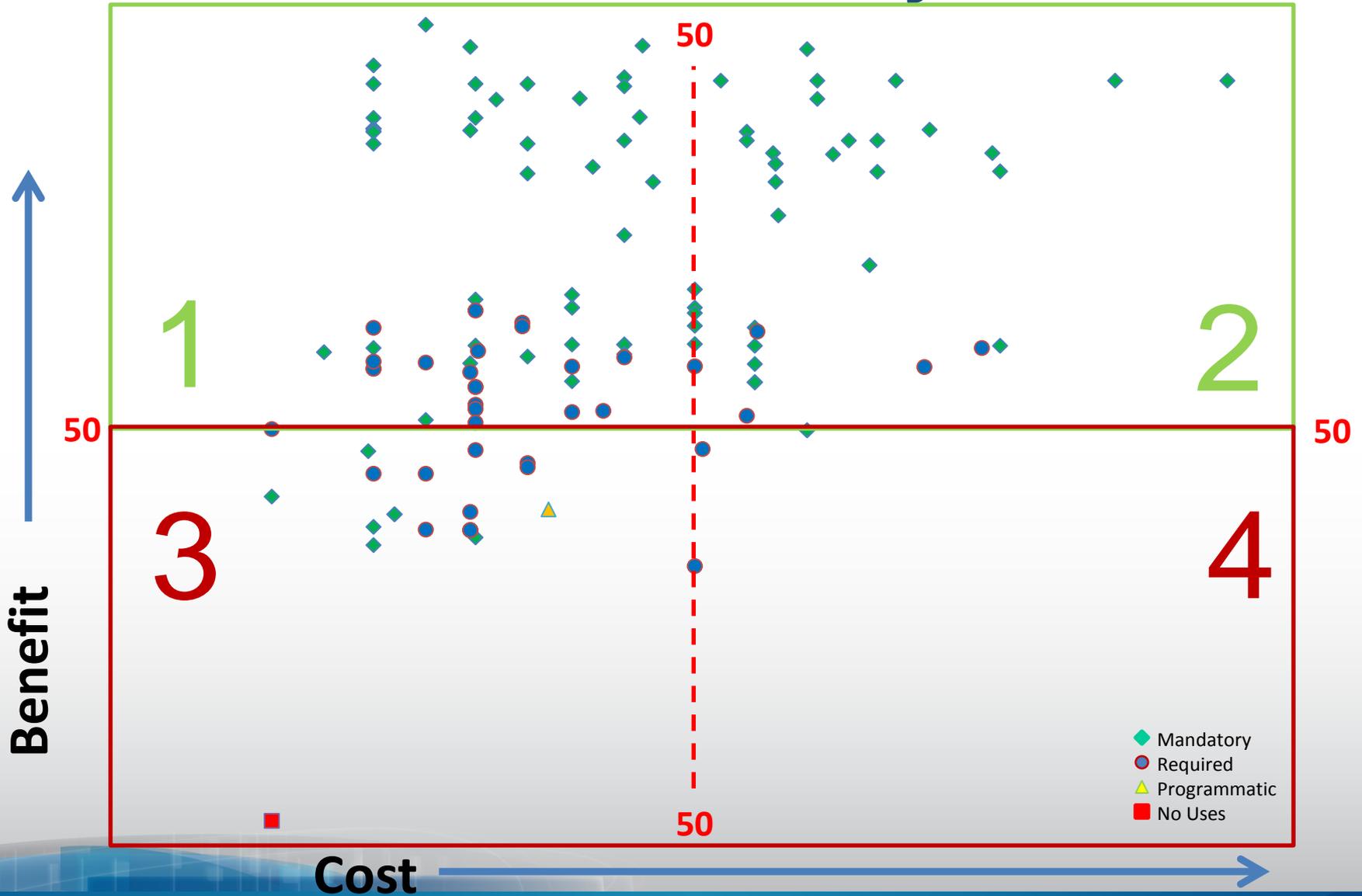
Driving Factors for Benefits and Costs



Quadrant Analysis

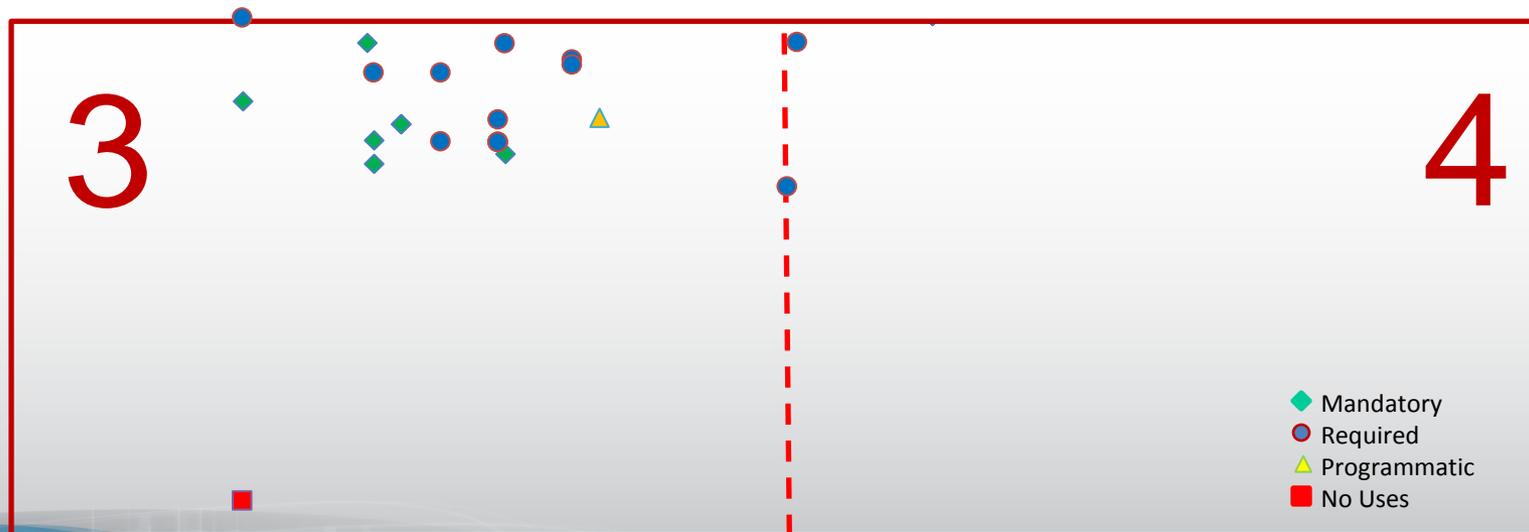


Quadrant Analysis



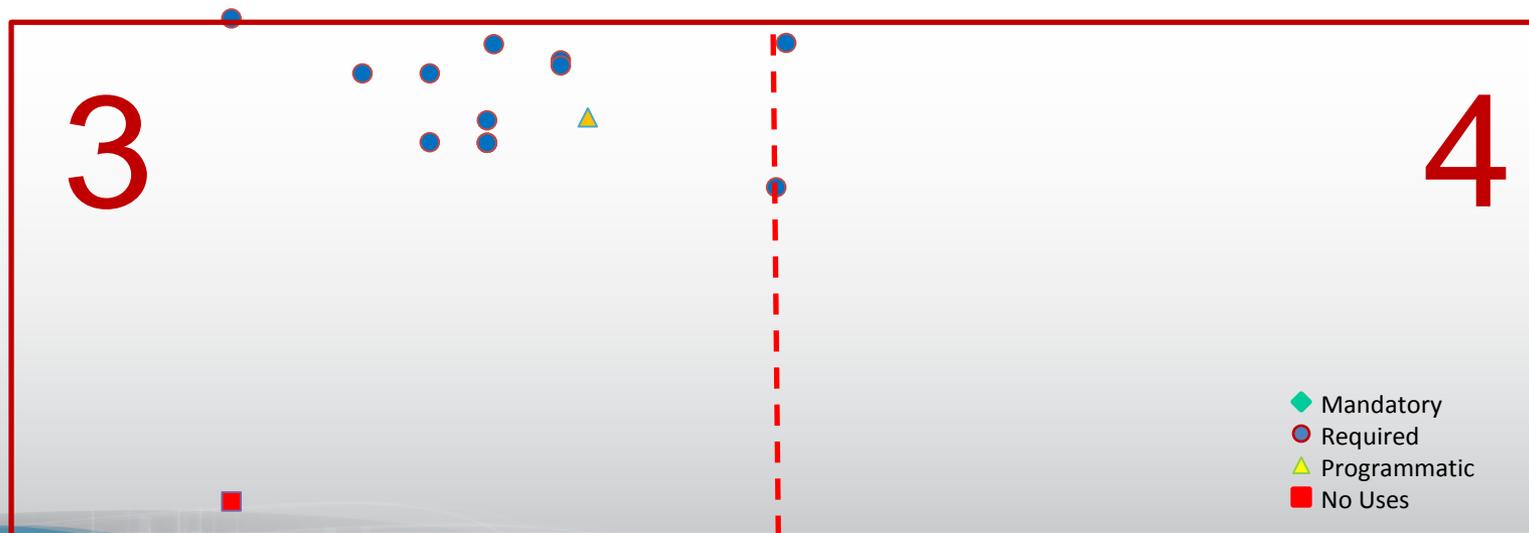
Quadrants 3 & 4 Analysis

- Begin with full array of M, R, P, and X (no uses)
- Exclude M from consideration for removal
- Exclude R with Sub-state Uses from consideration for removal



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Attributes of Candidates for Removal

Attribute	Agency Impacted/Comments	Other Agencies with Programmatic Uses
No Uses		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H6 – Business/Medical Office on Property (X) 	No current agency uses; supports comparative estimates	N/A
No M and No R Uses		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P12 – Undergraduate Field of Degree (P) 	NSF – used to target sampling frame for National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG); also supports STEM migration analyses	EPA, NTIA, HHS, DOL, DOT, EEOC
No M and No R Uses at Block Group/Tract Level or Place/County/MSA Level		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P21a – Get Married (R) P21b – Get Widowed (R) P21c – Get Divorced (R) P22 – Times Married (R) P23 – Year Last Married (R) 	SSA – State-level actuarial targeting	FCC, NSF, HHS, EEOC FCC, NSF, HHS, EEOC FCC, NSF, HHS, EEOC FCC, NSF, HHS FCC, NSF, HHS

Contact Us

- **View the ACS Content Review Web Page:**

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/about_the_survey/acs_content_review/

- **Sign up for GovDelivery ACS Subscriber Notices:**

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new>

- **Review *Federal Register* Notice**

- 60-day notice planned for mid-October to mid-December
- Link will be available on Content Review Web Page

Next Steps

- What Do We Need You To Do...?
 - Help us get the word out on *Federal Register* 60-day notice
- Tools we have developed to assist you –
 - Content Review (CR) Fact Sheet
 - CR High Level Talking Points
 - Web Page and GovDelivery
- Let's keep dialog going

Questions?

Background

Pre-Specified Criteria – Benefits

1. Uses at Block Group/Tract Level-Mandatory
2. Uses at Place/County/MSA Level-Mandatory
3. Uses at State/Nation Level-Mandatory
4. Uses at Block Group/Tract Level-Required
5. Uses at Place/County/MSA Level-Required
6. Uses at State/Nation Level-Required
7. Uses at Block Group/Tract Level-Programmatic
8. Uses at Place/County/MSA Level-Programmatic
9. Uses at State/Nation Level-Programmatic
10. County-Level Interquartile Range in Values
11. Used to Select Frame for a Federal Survey
12. Other Data Sources Exist
13. Median County-Level Coefficients of Variation

Pre-Specified Criteria – Costs

1. Cognitive Burden Score
 2. Sensitivity Score
 3. Overall Difficulty Score
 4. Number of Complaints to Census Bureau HQ
 5. Median Seconds to Answer
 6. Median County-Level item Response Rate
- } Interviewer Survey