

## Minutes - Disclosure Review Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2008

### 1. Consumer Expenditure Survey

We need to verify their top coding scheme. Specifically, are all continuous variables top coded (e.g., cell phone bill amount, cable bill amount, payments on loans, etc.)? Laura will check with Steve Henderson. If they are being top coded, then this request is approved.

### 2. 2007 School Crime Supplement

This request was approved.

### 3. Noise Flags

The noise flag approach described in the documentation was approved. However, questions were raised about certain aspects of the plan from both a disclosure and a perception basis. Arnie expressed concern regarding the suppression of high noise/sensitive cells with no complementary suppressions. Paul Massell explained that due to the application of noise, the range of any number obtained via subtraction would provide sufficient protection. Although the DRB accepted this explanation, Arnie wondered whether key data users would be satisfied with suppression of cells (sensitive and non-sensitive) with high noise levels. We recommend that the programs slated to use noise flags (NE, CBP, Island Areas) discuss the proposed noise flag system with some key data users, although we realize this is for the economic area to decide (not a disclosure issue.) Paul will communicate this to Rita Petroni.

### 4. AHS Question

Per Tom's example (emailed 4/23), even top coding everything would not solve the problem. Our recommendation is to release the percentage of down payment in categories that match the published tables. Do not release the down payment amount. An alternative approach (from Phil S.) would involve making the mortgage amount a calculated variable from the top coded variables.

Following the meeting, the program area agreed to release the percentage of down payment in categories that match the published cells.

### 5. AHS 1980-2006

This item was approved.