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NCVS Use of the Person Contact History Instrument (pCHI)

by Rachael Walsh and Julia Coombs

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) began using the person-level Contact History Instrument (pCHI) in August 2012. The pCHI allows field representatives to record and view contact history information for each individual in the household, with the added potential benefits for inclusion in adaptive design modeling and/or post-survey adjustments. After the data collection process was stabilized, the NCVS pCHI data collected from November 2012 through March 2013 were of sufficient quality for analysis.

One of the primary benefits to collecting person-based contact histories is the ability to assess differences in willingness to participate and level of contacting difficulty by age and sex, as well as the variation within households. An initial analysis of the pCHI data found the following with respect to these household dynamics in the NCVS:

- Older respondents are easier to contact.
- Age is directly related to making contact with respondents, though gender differences are only statistically significant for a few age groups.
- Respondents are likely to complete the interview during the first successful contact attempt, regardless of age or sex.
- Person nonresponse varies by age, but not sex and increases with subsequent wave.
- Assessing variation within households confirms the summative findings that very few additional interviews are completed after four contact attempts.

In addition, the pCHI data showed that reported concerns differ at the household and person level. At the household level, interviewers report more general concerns (i.e., privacy). Once a person within the household is contacted, however, interviewers mainly report other concerns (i.e., time constraints, prior interview concerns). Additionally, concerns increase over time, whether measured as time in sample, number of personal visit attempts, or week of interview period.

While the early results of the analysis of the pCHI data are solely descriptive, the richness of the data provides many opportunities for more advanced modeling. An initial analysis report is being finalized and ongoing discussions between the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Justice Statistics are being held to determine the next steps with the NCVS pCHI research and analysis.

SIPP Updates

by Matthew Marlay

Since our previous article in the March issue of *Survey News*, the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) area has continued the work to begin fielding the reengineered SIPP survey instrument in February 2014. The survey team and all of the service provider areas have worked on a number of different issues, including instrument development, training and field preparations, and data processing.

The SIPP instrument comprises a complex set of programs and has an extensive scope. We vetted a large number of proposed changes to the 2014 instrument, solicited from many sources, including our subject-matter analysts, field representatives, field supervisors, outside stakeholders, our American Statistical Association Survey Research Methods (ASA/SRM) advisory panel, and others. We created specifications for the improvements and corrections that we deemed feasible, and our instrument authoring staff has been working diligently to get these implemented.

Instrument changes need thorough testing before they are ready to go into the field. To this end, analysts in the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division (SEHSD) check changes as our authoring staff releases them in new versions of the SIPP Event History Calendar (EHC) instrument. To date, we have received six beta versions of our test instrument, and we anticipate several more iterations before the release of the final production instrument in November.

Recently, we successfully completed the first of our tests of the 2014 instrument and its integration with the rest of our data collection systems. These evaluations are necessary to ensure that data entered into the instrument are processed out of the instrument in the form expected and that the interrelated systems communicate properly with one another. Later this summer, we will be conducting a verification test with a nearly final instrument. The verification test is our last major chance to find any remaining problems with the instrument before production.

The Field Division has significantly revised the training materials for this year, incorporating information gained from the field tests and the changes to the instrument for 2014. The materials integrate self-studies, computer-based trainings (CBTs), video segments, and classroom materials. The SIPP training includes pre-classroom self-studies, classroom sessions to provide hands-on experience, and post-classroom self-studies. The survey team has also refined the post-training certification test, given to trainees to assess their readiness to begin conducting fieldwork, transforming it from a paper test into an automated instrument.

Besides the training materials, the survey team and Field Division have also been working to produce materials that go to the respondents, including advance letters and brochures. This year, to increase respondents' understanding of the survey's relevance (and thereby increase cooperation), we produced several subject-matter specific brochures, each highlighting one of the survey's main areas, such as health insurance and labor force participation.

Processing the data is complex, and the development of a new instrument necessitated the development of an entirely new processing system. Our programmers and subject-matter analysts have been working to write, program, and test this system using data from the 2010-2013 field tests.

To evaluate the survey data we collected, we are reviewing data from each of the four field tests. The most recent review compared results for calendar year 2011 from the 2012 field test to a matched sample from the 2008 panel. It showed that the results from the field test, along a number of dimensions, met or exceeded the data quality that we are getting from the current SIPP.

Along with preparing to field the new version of the SIPP, we have also been winding down the 2008 panel of SIPP. Wave 15 is currently in the field, and Wave 16 will be the last one for the 2008 panel. Data collection for Wave 16 will wrap up in December 2013, shortly before the 2014 panel goes into the field next February. This timing was intentional, to provide SIPP data users with information from calendar year 2014 from both the 2008 SIPP panel and the 2014 panel's Wave 1 interview.

Census staff continues to produce a range of reports, conference presentations, working papers, and other materials using SIPP data, such as an April 2013 report on childcare arrangements. We also make our data available to external researchers. Recently, we released the Wave 12 core data, and releases of Waves 13-16 will come out approximately every four months. We also recently released Wave 11 topical module data on retirement and pension plan coverage. As we begin fielding the 2014 panel, we will also release that data. However, data releases will become less frequent, reflecting the annual interviewing cycle for the reengineered SIPP. Our first data release from the 2014 panel is estimated for early 2015.

Finally, we have also recently released the newest iteration (version 5.1) of the SIPP Synthetic Beta (SSB) dataset. This dataset is a Census Bureau product that integrates person-level microdata from the SIPP with administrative tax and benefit data from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-2 records. The purpose of the SSB is to provide access to linked data that are usually not publically available due to confidentiality concerns. To overcome these concerns, Census has synthesized, or modeled, all the variables in a way that changes the record of each individual in a manner designed to preserve

the underlying covariate relationships between the variables. The SSB is housed on the Synthetic Data Server (SDS) at the Virtual Research Data Center at Cornell University. To get access, researchers must submit an application that includes contact information, a brief description of the project, and a list of variables to be used. File access is approved or denied based only on the feasibility of the proposal, which is determined by evaluating whether the data necessary to conduct the analysis are included on the file. (You can find additional information on the SSB data at www.census.gov/sipp/synth_data.html.)

The survey team has begun to create presentations and workshops on the redesigned SIPP geared to a variety of audiences, such as academics, students, policy makers, and data users. This past spring, Jason Fields addressed the 2013 Population Association of America (PAA) meeting in New Orleans. In August, we plan to give a similar presentation at the American Sociological Association (ASocA) meetings in New York City. Additionally, ASocA has already accepted our proposed session on the SIPP for the 2014 meetings in San Francisco. Given the wide audience of potential users at each of these meetings, we are hopeful that we can successfully publicize the survey, develop new user materials and workshops, and help our data users be excited about the changes to the survey.

We have come a long way since the reengineering of the SIPP began. While we still have much to do, we are pleased with the accomplishments so far, and we look forward to the continued success of the SIPP.

Predicting the Future with Adaptive Design

by Michael Thieme

Adaptive design will play an important role in the future of the Census Bureau. You may have heard it called different things – multi-mode data collection, mixed-mode data collection, responsive survey design, or adaptive survey design – but what it means is that we are getting smarter about the way we collect census and survey data.

For those new to adaptive design, the Center for Adaptive Design (CAD) at the Census Bureau, launched in the Research and Methodology Directorate in October 2012, works on answering the following question: how do we make every additional dollar we spend on a survey or census actually increase the quality of our results?

The answer to that question, and the notion behind adaptive design is, that we have the ability to set things up so that we *can* know whether spending the next dollar will really help or not. We can apply analytics that help us use data collection resources efficiently, rather than exhausting money and time simply to increase overall survey response rates. New technology can make it possible to get timely information about what is going on during data collection operations (paradata) and use that information to provide valuable input for cost/benefit analysis. This will allow the teams who manage Census surveys to determine how they can shorten response periods or reduce the number of times they contact respondents, all while still providing sound and robust statistical results.

Much of our work has to do with using data to predict the future. Are there data that can help us predict by what mode you will respond to the Census? Or whether your answers to a specific survey will help to make our estimates better? Or how many times we should call you before giving up? In the CAD, we believe there are data that can help us answer those questions and make those predictions. So, a big part of our work is the following: thinking of ways we can use data, finding the data that matter, and ensuring those data are both consistently available and of high quality.

Another part is harnessing all that information and making it usable and understandable. We are working in the CAD to build the operational control system that integrates all the data collection systems.

We started adaptive design testing in the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), which is a longitudinal survey we conduct every two to three years on behalf of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) at the National Science Foundation (NSF). This is a great example of testing the possibilities for using adaptive design to reduce both the cost of data collection and the time between fielding the survey and the delivery of results - again, while not significantly affecting data quality. A test sample of 4,000 cases went into the field in February. Plans are to expand and improve this initial implementation of adaptive design in the 2015, 2017, and 2019 iterations of the NSCG.

We started research in the Annual Survey of Manufacturers and the Economic Census to determine the most efficient subsample of non-respondents that will produce reliable tabulations at the industry level.

We created an architecture and plan for developing IT systems that will have adaptive design capabilities baked-in. The centerpiece of this plan is the Multimode Operational Control System (MOCS) that will orchestrate data collection operations. The MOCS will be a shared service that will serve all surveys. We are now working on the first “baseline” of the MOCS that focuses on the ACS.

We delivered presentations on adaptive design research and technical topics to over a dozen audiences, including the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM), the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS), the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC), the National Association for Business Economics (NABE), and the National Academy of Sciences. These presentations are a key component of the Center’s strategy to familiarize data users and other stakeholders with the cutting-edge concepts and issues surrounding adaptive design survey data collection.

We are excited about our work and look forward to hearing your comments and ideas.

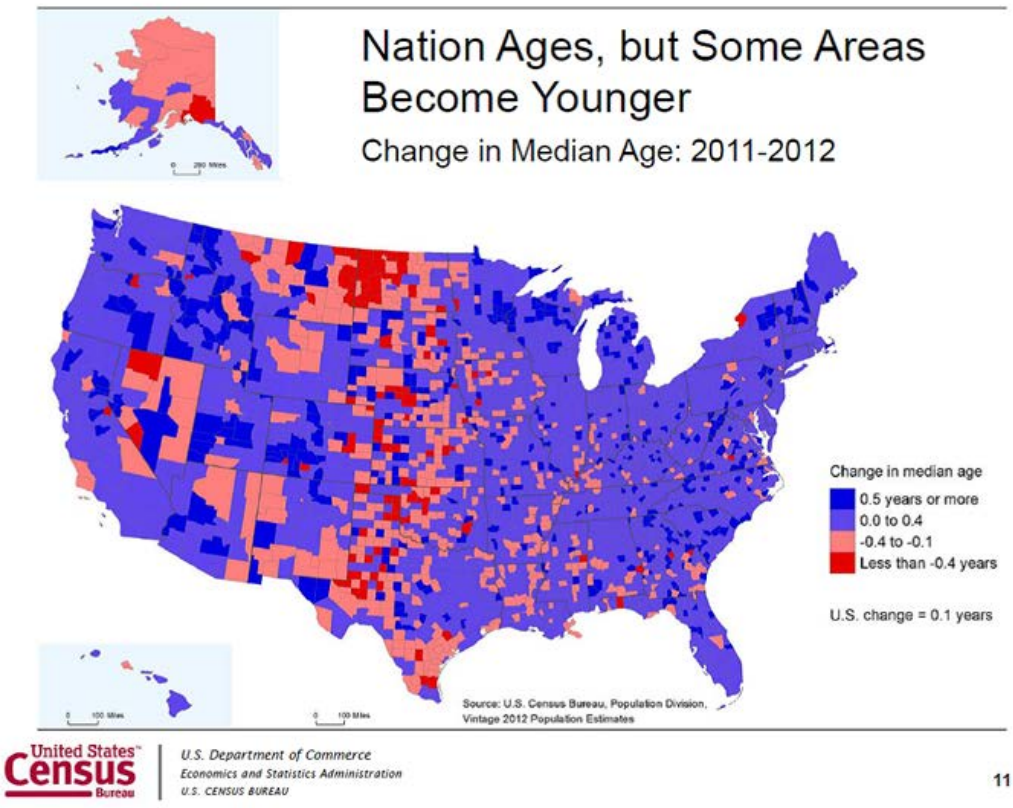
Michael Thieme is Chief of the Center for Adaptive Design in the Research and Methodology Directorate

New Population Estimates by Demographic Characteristics

by Alexa Jones-Puthoff

On June 13, 2013, the Census Bureau released July 1, 2012 population estimates by demographic characteristics—age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin—for the nation, states, and counties. These new estimates are part of the population estimates series that begins with the most recent decennial census and updates the population with data on births, deaths, and domestic and international migration to estimate the population in 2012. The estimates show us how the nation is growing and changing.

These estimates provide us with many pieces of information about the changing demographics of our nation, including how our nation is aging. The United States is getting older, on average: the nation’s median age increased from 37.3 years in 2011 to 37.4 years in 2012. The increase is not occurring in all areas, however. Several areas of the country are experiencing a decrease in their median age. The map below shows the change in the median age at the county level. The shades of red and pink indicate counties where the median age was lower in 2012 than it was in 2011, while shades of blue and purple indicate counties where the median age was higher in 2012 than it was in 2011. Across the country, six states experienced a decline in their median age, led by North Dakota, where it fell by 0.5 years (from 36.6 to 36.1).



On June 14, 2013, a C-SPAN “America by the Numbers” segment discussed these new population estimates by demographic characteristics. The above map and several other maps and graphs highlighted key information from the release. You can watch the archived C-SPAN segment online by navigating to <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/cspan/> and clicking on “Is the U.S. Population Getting Older and More Diverse?” More information about the Population Estimates Program, as well as the data that were part of this release, is available at <https://www.census.gov/popest/>.

Barry Sessamen Appointed Chief of the Demographic Surveys Division

Barry Sessamen is the new Chief of the Demographic Surveys Division. His appointment was effective June 30, 2013.

Barry joined the Census Bureau in 1980 and has held several positions in the Economic Directorate, the IT Directorate, and the Demographic Directorate during his tenure. Since 2010, he has served as the IT Innovation Program Manager in the Center for Applied Technology (CAT). He established the CAT as a lab configured for collaborative exploration, where business units and technicians can conceptualize solutions that

are innovative, efficient, and cost-effective. The CAT has initiated large scale enterprise efforts such as the Enterprise Content Management System, the Data Management System, several projects on Mobile Computing, as well as over 60 “grass roots” innovation projects from across the Bureau.

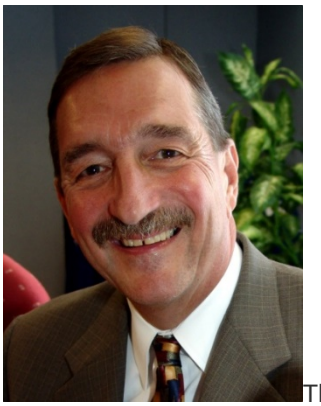
Barry started his career in the Economic Directorate, where he worked on a broad range of topics. He started programming on the Univac mainframe in support of the Current Economic Indicator Surveys. He played key roles in the 1982 and 1987 Business Sample revisions and the quarterly sample maintenance operations. He became Chief of the Annual Services Branch in 1990, where he created the Generalized Annual Survey Processing System (GASP). GASP instituted common programs for all Business Division annual surveys, enabling the new Communications survey and major expansions to the service and transportation surveys in a cost efficient manner while reducing production timelines. In 2001, he became the Assistant Division Chief in the Economic Statistical Methods and Programming Division (ESMPD), managing the Economic Census Data Analysis and Dissemination area. He was instrumental in changing the cultural environment of the Economic Census from one that used an independent application for each specific trade area to one that employed an integrated system based on functional tools used by all trades. His leadership in defining and implementing a repeatable Software Development Process for the 2007 Economic Census was in part responsible for a Census completed under budget while exceeding deadlines.

In 2007, Barry served as the first Acting Chief of the Data Integration Division in the Demographic Directorate. He was instrumental in creating a unified budget plan for the division based on Activity Based Costing. He then returned to his responsibilities as Assistant Division Chief in ESMPD. Barry brings to DSD insights and experience with both the production and IT sides of survey and census work.

Barry is the recipient of numerous awards. He has twice received the Commerce Department’s Bronze Medal Award. He is also the recipient of the Department of Commerce Equal Employment Opportunity Award and the Census Bureau Director’s Award for Innovation (Honorable Mention).

Barry graduated from Loyola University Baltimore with a degree in Economics. He has also received a Master’s Certificate in IT Project Management from the George Washington University. He resides in Bowie with his wife, Karen, and son, Scott.

Tom Mesenbourg is Retiring From the Census Bureau

 Thomas L. Mesenbourg, the Acting Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, will retire on August 2, 2013. He has spent his entire 41-year career at the Census Bureau. Before becoming Acting Director in August 2012, Mesenbourg served as Deputy Director from May 2008 until August 2012. He also served as Acting Director from January to July 2009. He was the Associate Director for Economic Programs from 2005 to 2008.

In October 2012, Mesenbourg received the Roger W. Jones Award from American University for exceptional leadership among persons who devoted themselves to federal public service. In 2011, Mesenbourg was the recipient of the Julius Shiskin Memorial award for Economic Statistics; and in 2004, he was awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Senior Executives, the government's highest award for career executives. He joined the Census Bureau in 1972.

Mesenbourg earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Boston University in 1968 and his master's from Penn State in 1971. He lives in La Plata, Md., with his wife, Faith. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Census Director Nominee Testifies Before the U.S. Senate

John Thompson, the nominee to be new Director of the Census Bureau, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on July 9, 2013.

Census Director Nominee Promises to Control Costs for 2020
07/10/2013
Science Magazine - Online
Washington, DC
Mervis, Jeffrey

The biggest challenge facing the U.S. Census Bureau is to rein in the spiraling costs of the decennial census. Yesterday, at his confirmation hearing, the likely next census director told a Senate panel that he could break that cycle

for the next census in 2020—but only if the agency is given enough money ahead of time to road-test putting the census online and making other changes in how the data are collected.

John Thompson, now president of the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) in Chicago, Illinois, has been nominated by President Barack Obama to succeed Robert Groves as director of the Census Bureau. Trained as a statistician, Thompson knows the bureau well, having spent 27 years there and having led the 2000 census before joining NORC in 2002. And his return to the agency seems like a sure bet judging from the bipartisan support that he received during yesterday's appearance before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The 2010 census cost $13 billion, and that number is projected to exceed $25 billion for the 2020 census. But the committee's chairman, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), said that "a $25 billion decennial census is unacceptable." Minutes later, the panel's top Republican, Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn, called the figure "ridiculous."

Thompson said he readily agreed that the next census has to cost a lot less than that. Under questioning from Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), he even promised "to put in place a [2020] census that is no more expensive than in 2010, except for inflation."

Thompson said that the agency has developed four "promising options" to bend the cost curve. The biggest change, he said, would be "to use the Internet as the primary self-response option." The Census Bureau also wants to cut down on the number of fieldworkers needed to go door-to-door by tapping into the reams of demographic data already collected by other federal agencies. Using existing geographic tools such as Google Maps should cut down on the cost of preparing the address lists that form the basis of each census, he added, and collecting data electronically should reduce the amount of time spent on field operations.

But Thompson also reminded lawmakers that there are plenty of wrinkles to be ironed out before these changes can be incorporated into the next census. "To realize this potential," he said in written answers to questions from the panel, "there must be funding to support the advance research necessary to take full advantage of these opportunities." His unspoken message was clear: If Congress continues to cut the bureau's annual budget as part of the overall push to reduce government spending, we won't be able to work out the kinks in time for April 2020.

While controlling costs is the most pressing issue for the agency, Republicans on the Senate panel also used the hearing to register their unhappiness with what they regard as inappropriate and intrusive questions on the decennial

census and its longer and more frequent cousin, the monthly American Community Survey (ACS). The issue has become a rallying point for those concerned about privacy and trust in government, said Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH). "Some of these questions are quite personal," she told Thompson. "They would get my dander up." To make her point, she cited a question on the ACS about whether persons with physical or mental disabilities have trouble dressing or bathing themselves.

Thompson's response was diplomatic but firm. "Senator, I certainly do not want to unduly burden the American public," he said. "And my entire professional career has been devoted to protecting the privacy of survey recipients. … But I also want to collect the important information that this survey is designed to generate."

Johnson also asked Thompson about the possible fines, which he said range from $100 to $5000, facing survey recipients if they do not fill out the questionnaire. Thompson acknowledged that the law exists but said it was a matter for the Justice Department, not the Census Bureau. "I don't think fining people is the right way to encourage their response," he said. "We are a data collection agency, not an enforcement agency," he added, saying that he didn't know how the fines were assessed.

After the hearing, Carper told Science Insider that he agreed with Thompson that fines are not a useful tool to encourage participation and that public education is the way to go. "We need to do a better job of explaining to people why we have this survey, how it helps local and state government and the business community," Carper said.
"And that's not just the job of the federal government."

Asked how quickly he expected Thompson's nomination to be taken up by the full Senate, Carper said that he was "encouraged" by the presence of Coburn, Johnson, and Ayotte at the hearing and by what he characterized as their "positive" comments. He said that he couldn't promise a final vote before the Senate recesses in August but added, "I've not heard of anything today that would cause us to slow down."

National Day of Civic Hacking Results in New Web Applications Using American Community Survey Statistics

U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office

More than 11,000 people across the country participated in the National Day of Civic Hacking on June 1 and 2, 2013, with many of them using the rich array of local statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey to develop new online apps.

During the event, software developers and entrepreneurs from across the country collaborated to invent and build solutions using publicly released data, code and technology to solve challenges relevant to communities. Census Bureau staff participated in 31 events throughout the country to help developers use American Community Survey statistics to build new apps.

One app developed at the event creates heat maps that show American Community Survey statistics at the county level across the United States. More examples can be found on the Census Bureau's Developer's Forum in the Application Showcase.

The event is in line with one of the main goals of the Digital Government Strategy, to create "open data" to allow the public to access government data. Through access to data sets in the Census Bureau's application programming interface (API), these new applications use statistics to help communities with economic development issues or with disaster planning.

"These new applications offer inspiring examples of the kind of innovative tools that can be created using statistics from the American Community Survey," said Thomas Mesenbourg, the Census Bureau's acting director. ""By accessing our data through the API, developers have harnessed the power of these statistics to create practical new applications that will give communities greater insight when answering real-world questions."

The statistics were publicly available through the Census Bureau's open API. Developers can access the API online and share ideas through the Census Bureau's Developers Forum.

The API is just one aspect of the Census Bureau's digital transformation. The Census Bureau's first mobile app, America's Economy, was released last year and provides users with 16 economic indicators from the Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Census Bureau Names Ten New Members to The National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations

On June 26, 2013, the U.S. Census Bureau announced the names of ten new members of its National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations.

The National Advisory Committee advises the Census Bureau on a wide range of variables that affect the cost, accuracy and implementation of the Census Bureau's programs and surveys, including the once-a-decade census. The committee, which is composed of 32 members from multiple disciplines, advises the Census Bureau on topics such as housing, children, youth, poverty, privacy, race, ethnicity and sexual-orientation issues.

"The committee has helped us meet emerging challenges the Census Bureau faces in producing high-quality statistics about our diverse nation," said Thomas Mesenbourg, the Census Bureau's acting director. "By helping us better understand a variety of issues that affect statistical measurement, this committee ensures that the

Census Bureau continues to provide relevant and timely statistics used by federal, state and local governments as well as business and industry in an increasingly technologically oriented society."

The National Advisory Committee members, who serve at the discretion of the Census Bureau director, are chosen to serve based on their expertise and knowledge of the cultural patterns, issues and/or statistical needs of "hard-to-count" populations. The new members will be seated on August 1.

The new members are:

- Randall Akee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, University of California, Los Angeles
- Carol Gore, President/CEO, Cook Inlet Housing Authority
- Timothy Harjo, Member, Fort Sill - Chiricahua Apache Tribe
- Pauline Medrano, Mayor Pro Tem and city council member, Dallas
- Ann Morning, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, New York University, New York
- Mee Moua, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC
- Alisu Schoua-Glusberg, Principal, Research Support Services Inc.
- Desi Small-Rodriguez, Lead Advisor of Policy and Research, Office of the President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Maile Taualii, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Office of Public Health Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund

Infographic on Child Care

Child care arrangements pose a significant issue for employed parents, their relatives, care providers, policy makers, and anyone concerned about children.

A new Census Bureau infographic, "Child Care: An Important Part of American Life," uses results from the 2011 Survey of Income and Program Participation and 2007 Economic Census to show how many children (by age) are in some type of arrangement, the kinds of arrangements they are in, the amount spent on care, and how child care facilities are distributed across the country.

How Do We Know? Infographics are available at: <https://www.census.gov/how/>.

Recent and Upcoming Data Releases

July 2013

Demographic

American Housing Survey Fact Sheets for the U.S. and Selected Metropolitan Areas — July 11 — Separate profiles for each of 29 different metropolitan areas and the U.S. Based on statistics from the 2011 American Housing Survey, these short profiles provide information on the area's monthly housing costs, mortgage types and a variety of other physical and financial characteristics related to the area's housing inventory. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/news_conferences/20130711_ahs.html>.

Survey of Market Absorption 2012 Characteristics Report — July 1 — The 2012 Characteristics Report provides details about units constructed in 2012, yet not necessarily absorbed, such as number of bedrooms, asking rent, and asking price. This publication is of value to builders, bankers, market analysts, land planners, and government officials trying to measure the needs for federal, state and local assistance in providing better housing for everyone.
The Survey of Market Absorption, sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, uses the Census Bureau's Survey of Construction as its sampling base. Each month, a sample of residential buildings containing five or more units is selected for the survey. The initial three-month interview collects information on amenities, rent or sales price levels, number of units, type of building and the number of units taken off the market (absorbed). Field representatives conduct subsequent interviews, if necessary, at six, nine and 12 months after completion.
In addition to the characteristics report, SOMA produces quarterly absorption reports that are generally available the first week of March, June, September and December. Additionally, statistics on absorption rates for selected metropolitan areas are also released on the Internet at the same time. For more information, please visit <https://www.census.gov/housing/soma/>.

2013 Product Calendar — The Census Bureau has posted anticipated release dates for each regular and recurring statistical product expected to be released in 2013. The products are listed in the Census Bureau's online product calendar, which will be updated as needed throughout the year.

My Congressional District — My Congressional District gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics updated annually through the American Community Survey. This interactive tool provides the latest demographic and economic statistics for every district of the 113th Congress. Statistics available include information on commuting, education, housing and much more. My Congressional District is part of the Census Bureau's effort to make statistics more accessible and easier to use, share, embed and download. (Scheduled for release July 22.)

Census Bureau Develops Tool for Assessing Ability of Developing Countries to Conduct Censuses and Household Surveys — The U.S. Census Bureau announces the availability of its Tool for Assessing Statistical Capacity (TASC). The TASC, sponsored by U.S. Agency for International Development measures the overall capacity of a country's national statistical office to conduct population and housing censuses or surveys. (Schedule for release July 29.)

American Community Survey (ACS)

2011 Language Mapper — Illustrates the geographic concentration of speakers of 15 individual languages, such as Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic. The mapper, which uses data from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, also shows, for each of these languages, the concentration of those who do not speak English proficiently. The Mapper permits you to zoom in to create population density maps for local areas for speakers of each language. (Scheduled for release July 30.)

Language Use in the United States: 2011 — These statistics in this report cover the number of people speaking specific languages and their English-speaking ability by selected demographic characteristics. The data are provided for the nation, states and metropolitan and micropolitan areas. Based on American Community Survey data. (Scheduled for release July 30.)

2010 Census

2010 Census Tribal Tract Reference Map — July 2 — New federal American Indian reservation-based maps showing tribal census tracts and tribal block groups as delineated to support the 2010 Census data dissemination are available. These maps show the boundaries and names of American Indian reservations and off-reservation trust lands, Alaska Native areas, Hawaiian home lands, states, counties, county subdivisions and places. Additionally, these maps display a base feature network including roads, railroads and water bodies.
The maps are available at <https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/2010tribaltract.html>.

Economic

2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances — These data sets include information on revenues, expenditures, debt, and cash and security holdings for state and local governments. (Scheduled for release July 24.)

Training Opportunities
The Census Bureau offers webinars to help you access and use Census Bureau statistics. These free sessions, lasting about 60 to 90 minutes, can teach you how to use our databases and mapping tools, find demographic and economic statistics at a local or national level and provide quick links for frequent questions you have about accessing statistics.

The following courses are offered in the next few weeks:

- Go Global Webinar Series: Finding Buyers and Making Contacts — Foreign Agricultural Service (Tuesday, July 16, 1 p.m. EDT)
- Accessing Employment Statistics Using "OnTheMap" (Wednesday, July 24, 1 p.m. EDT)
- Go Global Webinar Series: Trade Financing — Small Business Administration and Export-Import Bank (Tuesday, July 30, 1 p.m. EDT)

Descriptions for each of the upcoming sessions are available on our educational resources page. No registration is needed to join the webinar. Login details will be provided one week before a webinar.

June 2013

Demographic

Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: State Reports — Jan. 22-June 28 — Results from one of the oldest continuing and most comprehensive recreation surveys. Includes information on the number of anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers, as well as how often they participate and how much they spend on their activities. The reports were released on a state-by-state flow basis alphabetically by state name during the first half of 2013. The complete list of reports can be found at <https://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/fishing.html>. Note that no report was released for North Dakota.

Economic Characteristics of Households in the United States: Fourth Quarter 2011 — June 27 — This set of tables examines the role of government-sponsored benefit programs and the labor market among the nation's people and households within the economic climate of the fourth quarter of 2011. Specifically, it presents statistics on average monthly income, participation in government-sponsored social welfare or social insurance programs, and labor force activity during the period. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/sipp/tables/quarterly-est/household-char/hsehld-char-11.html>.

State and County Housing Unit Estimates: July 1, 2012 — June 27 — Updated estimates of the nation's housing stock at the national, state and county levels show growth or decline in units since the 2010 Census. Internet address: https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/housing/cb13-tps66.html.

Island Areas: 2010 Census Summary File — June 27 — These summary files contain subject-matter content from the 2010 Census — age (including single years of age), sex, race and Hispanic or Latino origin (for the U.S. Virgin Islands only), race and ethnicity (for the Pacific Islands only), household type, relationship, population in group quarters, whether the residence is owned or rented (tenure), and vacancy status among other social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics. There is a separate file for each of the Island Areas, which include the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and selected geographic entities within the islands: counties, county subdivisions, census tracts, places, block groups and blocks.

The summary file can be accessed directly in American Factfinder: http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t.

Economic

Summary of the Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions for 2013: 1st Quarter — June 27 — This quarterly survey (formerly known as the Finances of Selected State and Local Government Employee Retirement Systems Survey) provides national summary statistics on the revenues, expenditures and composition of assets of the 100 largest state and local public employee retirement systems in the United States. These 100 systems comprise 89.4 percent of financial activity among such entities, based on the 2007 Census of Governments. This survey presents the most current statistics about investment decisions by state and local public employee retirement systems, which are among the largest types of institutional investors in the U.S. financial markets. These statistical tables are published three months after each calendar quarter and show national financial transactions and trends for the past five years.
For more information, please visit <https://www.census.gov/govs/qpr/>.

Historical data from the Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions are available in the Census Bureau's Economic Indicator Database <https://www.census.gov/econ/currentdata/>.

Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue for 2013: 1st Quarter — June 25 — This summary shows quarterly tax revenue statistics on property, sales, license, income and other taxes. Statistics are shown for individual state governments as well as national estimates of total state and local taxes, including 12-month calculations. This quarterly survey has been conducted continuously since 1962. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/govs/qtax/>.

Capital Spending Report: U.S. Capital Spending Patterns, 2002-2011 — June 18 — This report provides a historical look at capital spending patterns for structures and equipment by all U.S. businesses with and without employees at the national level. Estimates at the national and industry sector level are available for businesses with employees. Data in this report come from the Annual Capital Expenditures Survey. This report looks closely at investment shares over time for market analysis, forecasting, and decision-making in the private sector. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/econ/aces/report/2013/csr.html#>.

Multimedia

"America by the Numbers" on C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" — Tune in each Friday morning to C-SPAN's "America by the Numbers" for insight into key official statistics from the Census Bureau and other statistical agencies. Poverty, childbearing, education, health, the economy - topics discussed focus on the key issues of the day. The program highlights the trends and allows people to call in or email their views. More information is available at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/cspan/>.

Apps

Stay Connected to the Economy with Census Bureau Mobile App — Every week, the Department of Commerce releases key Census Bureau economic indicators. Get the latest business news on-the-go as it is released through the Census Bureau's free, easy-to-use mobile app, America's Economy, available for download for both Apple and Android phones and tablets. The app provides real-time updates for 16 key economic indicators from the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/mobile/>.

Survey News Will Not Be Published in August

We look forward to resuming the newsletter in September.