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Timetable for Release of Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Statistics and American Community Survey Results

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced the public release schedule for the official national income, poverty, and health insurance statistics for 2012 from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the release of local estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS).

National 2012 income, poverty and health insurance statistics — **Current Population Survey** — These national estimates will be released Tuesday, **September 17, 2013**. As is standard procedure, there will be no embargo of these statistics.

State and Local 2012 American Community Survey — The Census Bureau plans to release one-year estimates from the 2012 ACS on **Thursday, September 19, 2013**. The ACS produces estimates for numerous social, economic and housing characteristics including language, education, the commute to work, employment, mortgage status and rent, as well as income, poverty and health insurance. Estimates will be available for the nation, all 50 states, the District Columbia, Puerto Rico, every congressional district, every metropolitan area, and all counties and places with populations of 65,000 or more.

2010-2012 American Community Survey — The Census Bureau plans to release the three-year estimates from the 2010-2012 ACS on **October 24, 2013**. The estimates will cover all geographic areas with populations of 20,000 or more. For the first time, comparison profiles will be available for the three-year estimates. These will permit users to compare two non-overlapping three-year periods (2007-2009 versus 2010-2012) and see which changes were statistically significant.

2008-2012 American Community Survey — The Census Bureau plans to release the five-year ACS statistics covering 2008-2012 on **December 5, 2013**. These statistics are available for all areas regardless of population size, down to the block group.
The ACS Public Use Microdata Sample files for each of the three sets of statistics will be released one to two months after each public release.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT (ASEC) TO THE CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS)

The Current Population Survey serves as the nation's primary source of statistics on labor force characteristics. The ASEC provides the official annual statistics on the nation's income and poverty levels as well as statistics on age, sex, race, marital status, educational attainment, employee benefits, work schedules, school enrollment, health insurance, noncash benefits and migration. The Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics have conducted the CPS for more than 50 years. The statistics are used by government policymakers as important indicators of our nation's economy and for planning and evaluating many government programs.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The American Community Survey provides a wide range of important statistics about people and housing for every community across the nation. The results are used by everyone from town and city planners to retailers and homebuilders. The survey is the only source of local estimates for most of the 40 topics it covers, such as education, occupation, language, ancestry and housing costs for even the smallest communities. Ever since Thomas Jefferson directed the first census in 1790, the census has collected detailed characteristics about our nation's people. Questions about jobs and the economy were added 20 years later under James Madison, who

said such information would allow Congress to "adapt the public measures to the particular circumstances of the community," and over the decades allow America "an opportunity of marking the progress of the society."

John Thompson Confirmed as Census Bureau Director

by Montgomery Woods

John H. Thompson first came to the Census Bureau in 1975 with a Master's Degree in mathematics from Virginia Tech. He worked on the decennial censuses for the next 27 years, and along the way, he and his wife raised three children in Great Falls, Virginia.

He became Chief of the Decennial Studies Division before the 1990 Census and, after that, the Decennial Management Division. He became Associate Director for the decennial census a few years before the 2000 Census – helping to pioneer the use of optical scanning and intelligent character recognition to capture information from the questionnaires. He left in 2002 to work for the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center, becoming president and CEO in 2008.

President Obama nominated Thompson to be Census Bureau Director on May 23, 2013, and on August 1, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm him. He was sworn in on August 8.

The following is an excerpt from his testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on July 9.

I agree with the views of a number of previous Census Bureau directors, that a democracy needs credible, objective and timely information on the vast array of issues, needs and opinions of its citizens to form the basis of solid policy decisions and other critical functions of governance. Statistical agencies are guided by principles of nonpartisanship, protection of individual privacy, and provision of high-quality information to inform decision-makers and the public on the important issues facing our society and nation.

The Census Bureau is an important component of this information infrastructure. We are seeing a growing need for such information as it is playing an increasingly significant role in all aspects of our daily lives, and society will rely more heavily on institutions like the Census Bureau to deliver this vital resource.

However, there are a number of rapidly emerging challenges and opportunities that have the potential to dramatically change the way in which information is collected, analyzed and disseminated. During my tenure at the National Opinion Research Center, I have seen and dealt with the dramatic changes that emerging technology can have on survey processes. I have also gained a new and refreshing perspective on ways to achieve potentially significant efficiencies that are now possible because of advancements in using large data sets in an electronic environment. Importantly, I have dealt with the growing demands to produce more information, faster and less expensively through adoption of new technology and data sources. Such skills and experience are essential in leading statistical organizations such as the Census Bureau through the challenges now confronting them:

- Demands for information are increasing while the methods we have traditionally relied on to produce that information are at risk of becoming financially unsustainable.
- Technology evolution is leading to new means of communication and new sources of "data."
- Social media is rapidly becoming the standard or primary mode of communication for many people.
- Mobile technology is rapidly replacing landline phones, and as a result, telephone numbers are no longer associated with a physical address, but rather with individuals. In addition, mobile devices are opening new avenues for increased real-time connectivity.

The Census Bureau faces an additional unique challenge: planning for the 2020 Census in this dynamic environment. I believe that there are a number of options available for producing significantly less costly and faster results that are of similar or better quality than previous censuses. Among the most promising are:

- Using the Internet as primary self-response.
- Taking advantage of technology and research to re-engineer field data collection.

- Making better use of federal records to reduce in-person visits.
- Using geographic tools and data sets to eliminate physically canvassing the country to prepare address lists.

My goal will be to leave a legacy of innovation in all areas and in all levels of the Census Bureau and to design a 2020 Census that represents a fundamental change for the future. I am committed to accomplishing this in an environment that is open and transparent to all stakeholders.

Overview from the Assistant Director for Demographic Programs

by Eloise Parker

It was with great pleasure that I returned to the Census Bureau in July, 2013, to become Assistant Director for Demographic Programs. This is a new position, established to advance the Bureau's strategic vision for a tightly coordinated and efficient approach to the management of externally sponsored surveys. In this capacity, I lead a team of nine Survey Directors, each of whom has responsibility for ensuring that the Bureau consistently delivers high-quality data to its sponsors in a timely and cost-effective manner. Importantly, these Survey Directors will be working with you – our sponsors – in proactive ways that ensure these surveys continue to produce data that support 21st-century needs.

The demands pressing on the federal statistical system are manifold: budgetary constraints; degradation of statistical methods and operational modes that have been tried and true for decades; data users seeking small area estimates to help them program more strategically at state and community levels; a need for dissemination strategies that facilitate timely public access to data; and challenges to respondent privacy and data confidentiality. The Survey Directors understand these challenges and they are not a shy bunch: expect them to let you know when we are facing challenges and to articulate options for overcoming those challenges. They also will engage you in frank discussion about design and process improvements, and the advantages and costs associated with them. Finally, the Bureau has established a small but important *Survey Operations Coordination Office,* which is central to our efforts to maximize staff resources across the full suite of sponsored surveys, facilitate efficient processing and start-up of new Interagency Agreements, and ensure that the sponsored surveys have a voice in the development of policies and enterprise initiatives at the Bureau.

These efforts to re-energize the demographic surveys enjoy an exceptional level of commitment from Associate Director for Demographic Programs Enrique Lamas, Census Bureau Deputy Director Nancy Potok, and Census Bureau Director John Thompson. This enables us to leverage the time and attention of the Bureau's creative, dedicated staff to overcome survey challenges and spur innovation. In this and future issues of *Survey News,* we will update you on the research and analytic efforts of these individuals, including small area estimation methods, data dissemination strategies, sampling frame improvements, adaptive design experiments, new ways to measure data quality, technological advancements, and others.

There has not been a day since I arrived when I have not been reminded of the importance of these Census-sponsor partnerships and their impact on the production of critical, actionable data for program and policy managers throughout the United States. If I have not already had an opportunity to meet with you and hear your needs and concerns, please look for me on your doorstep soon. I look forward to working with you!

Census Bureau Survey Directors

Scott Boggess, Survey Director for the National Ambulatory Medical Care Surveys (NAMCS/NHAMCS) on behalf of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

Lisa Clement, Survey Director for the Current Population Survey (CPS) on behalf of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and associated CPS Supplements

Tamara Cole, Survey Director for the American Housing Survey on behalf of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as other smaller, periodic housing surveys.

Jason Fields, Survey Director for the Survey of Income and Program Participation, a Census-sponsored survey.

Anne Kearney, Survey Director for the National Health Interview Survey on behalf of NCHS, including a number of supplements and tests to prepare

Carolyn Pickering, Survey Director for the Consumer Expenditure (CE) Surveys on behalf of BLS, including the CE-Quarterly, CE-Diary, and CE Redesign

Benjamin Reist, Survey Director for the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), on behalf of the National Science Foundation (NSF)

Bill Samples, Survey Director for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

Sharon Stern, Survey Director for a suite of Education surveys conducted on behalf of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), including the National Household Education Survey (NHES), the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), and others

Survey Operations Coordination Office

La Terri Bynum, Co-Director, Human Resources, Policy & Communication

Christopher Laskey, Co-Director, Management and Survey Systems

The Annual Social and Economic Supplement Content Test

by Lisa Clement and Tim Marshall

The Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS) is used to produce official estimates of income and poverty, and it serves as the most widely-cited source of estimates on health insurance and the uninsured. Data are collected in February, March, and April, with the majority of interviews taking place in March. In March of this year, a large scale test was conducted using a new series of questions on health insurance and income.

The changes to the health insurance and income question series were extensive. Changes included:

- Customizing income questions to fit specific demographic groups
- Asking recipiency and amounts separately
- Using targeted questions for certain income types that are currently not well reported
- Improving health insurance questions by using a new method of collection
- New questions on income-related subsidies for health insurance coverage
- New content on employer-provided health insurance

The main goals of the ASEC test were to operationally test the new questions and then compare the resulting data with the current ASEC data. The test was conducted in March, with a reference period of January 2012 through March 2013. A sample of 15,000 addresses were selected from retired CPS sample. CATI interviewers conducted the interviews at the Census Bureau Contact Centers (formerly known as the telephone centers). All interviewers attended specialized training sessions and debriefings.

Subject matters experts are currently analyzing and comparing the test data to the production ASEC and will soon make recommendations on whether to use the revised questions in 2014.

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Pilot Studies

by Scott Boggess

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) has two pilots scheduled to go into the field in September 2013 to investigate the feasibility of collecting ambulatory care data on patients seen by nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs). Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with advanced training, experience, and education. Physician assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine under a collaborative agreement with physicians. Each pilot will interview a sample of nine providers practicing in the Washington, DC metro area.

Changes in the health care workforce have resulted in an increasing share of medical care being provided by non-physician clinicians such as nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs), a trend that could accelerate with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As a result, it has become increasingly important to understand the role that non-physician clinicians play in the health care delivery system and how that role may be evolving. In 2013, the NAMCS expanded to include a series of workforce questions designed to measure how many and what types of non-physician clinicians are working in physicians' offices and what types of services these clinicians are providing. While the NAMCS already collects patient data on NPs and PAs who are providing care in community health centers, these pilots would be the first attempt to collect similar data from these providers in other settings such as physicians' offices and retail health care clinics.

In addition to the collection of practice and patient data, the pilots also include separate field representative (FR) and clinician debriefing questionnaires. The primary purpose of the debriefing questionnaires is to identify barriers to NP and PA data collection and to understand how these barriers might differ depending on the care delivery setting. Do NPs and PAs require the consent of their employers in order to participate? Do the interview questions in the current physician instrument make sense for non-physician clinicians? Are patient records accessed differently in retail health care clinics than in physicians' offices? Do retail health care clinics have the space and resources to allow for the collection of patient record data? What additional training might be required for NAMCS FRs if the sample is expanded to include non-physician clinicians? Both pilots are scheduled to conclude in January 2013.

R-Indicators: An Alternative Measure of Data Quality

by Benjamin Reist and Stephanie Coffey

For many years, response rates have been the main measure of data quality in sample surveys, specifically as a proxy measure for nonresponse bias. However, it has been shown that response rates are often a poor predictor of nonresponse bias (Groves, 2006; Groves and Peytcheva, 2008). Additionally, as surveys consider using adaptive design techniques, it is important to have both cost and quality measures to drive adaptive interventions. One of the key components of adaptive design is to identify cost and quality indicators for design factors that affect survey estimates and monitor those indicators in the initial phases of data collection (Groves and Heeringa, 2006). These two issues have led to the development of a new family of quality indicators, the Representativeness indicators, or R-indicators for short (Schouten et al., 2009 and Schouten et al., 2011).

Conceptually, the R-indicator is a measure that represents how different the respondent population is from the full sample population for a given set of variables. Specifically, the R-indicator compares outcome propensities for individual cases against population and subpopulation mean outcome propensities in order to quantify variations in those propensities. If all cases in the sample are equally likely to appear in the respondent population, given a set of model variables, the sample is considered balanced on those variables. "In fact, we view the R-indicator as a lack-of-association measure. The weaker the association the better, as this implies that there is no evidence that non-response has affected the composition of the observed data" (Schouten et al., 2011). This suggests that “selective forces…are absent in the selection of respondents” out of the sample population (Schouten et al., 2009), and non-respondents are missing at random, which potentially reduces non-response bias for key estimates.

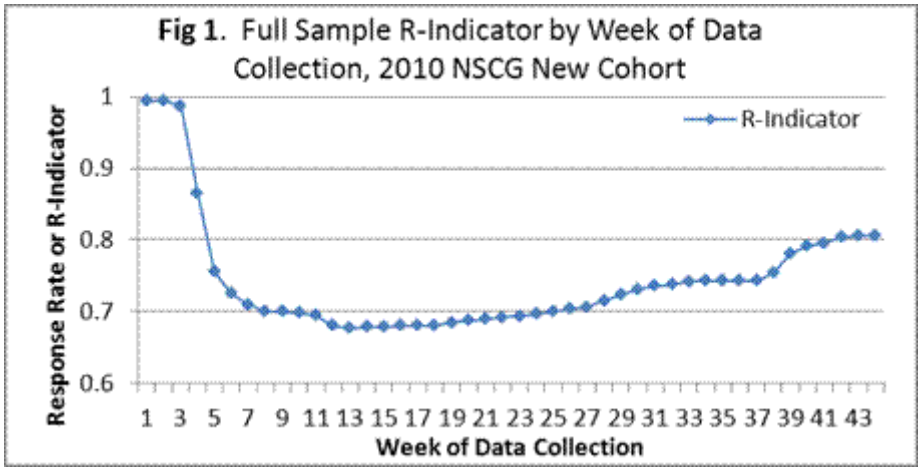
R-indicators are based on propensity models, so the first implementation step is to determine what variables to include in the propensity model. The National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) is fortunate to select sample from the American Community Survey (ACS), so it has high-quality, high-detail frame variables about sample cases. To develop R-indicators for the NSCG, we included NSCG sampling stratification variables, as these variables create the subgroups at which the National Science Foundation (NSF) and data users most commonly make estimates. A subset of these variables is listed here:

- Age Group
- Demographic Group (a composite variable of race, ethnicity, citizenship, and disability)
- Highest Degree Level
- Science &Engineering Workforce Status
- Broad and Detailed Occupation categories
- Gender
- Census Geographic Division

The full list incorporated variables used in stratification and sampling and those most important for reporting estimates that meet NSF's mission, which is to provide educational, employment, and demographic information on the science and engineering workforce as a whole, and also by gender, disability status, and race/ethnicity. If we have a high R-indicator by the end of data collection, then there is no (or little) relationship between the model variables and non-response. If these variables did not drive variation in response, estimates can be made at these subgroup levels with less risk of non-response bias, even at lower response rates. Once balancing propensities are calculated, four categories of R-indicators can then be calculated and tracked over time.

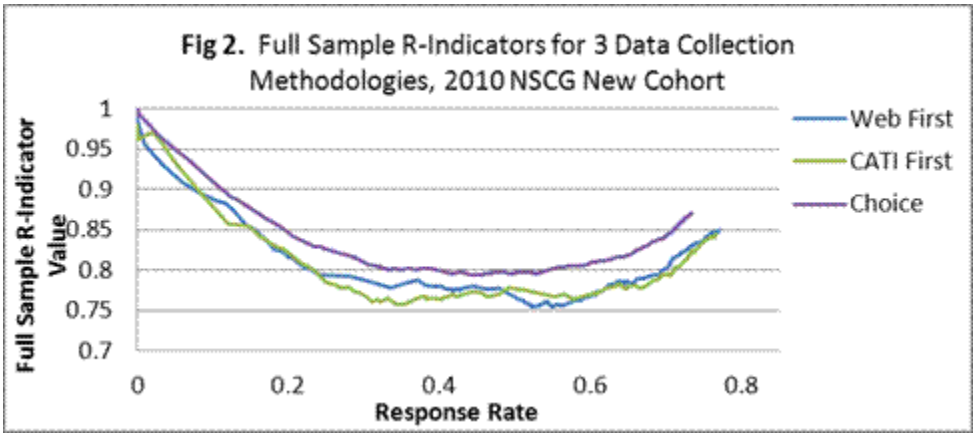
Full-Sample R-Indicators

Full sample R-indicators can take on values [0,1], with a value of one meaning there is no relationship between variables included in the balancing model and non-response. These indicators can be tracked throughout data collection and compared with other full sample R-indicators, provided the same variables are used in the balancing propensity model. In the NSCG, we used the full sample R-indicator in two ways. First, plotted against time, as in Figure 1, we used the R-indicator to evaluate the effect of data collection interventions on representativeness over time. For example, in Week 38, something occurred that caused a larger increase in the R-indicator than occurred at any other time during data collection. That was a planned intervention (e.g., a reminder letter, sending an incentive, etc.); this graph shows that the intervention was successful in increasing representativeness.



Second, when the full sample R-indicator is plotted against response rate, as in Figure 2, for several comparable survey groups, we could compare R-indicators and response rates and determine which survey group provided either the highest response rate, the highest R-indicator, or a balance of both. Comparing these groups makes it clear that having a higher response rate does not always result in a more balanced or representative sample. Figure 2 shows that while both the web first and CATI first data collection

methodologies had higher response rates than the choice data collection methodology, the choice group had a higher representativeness.

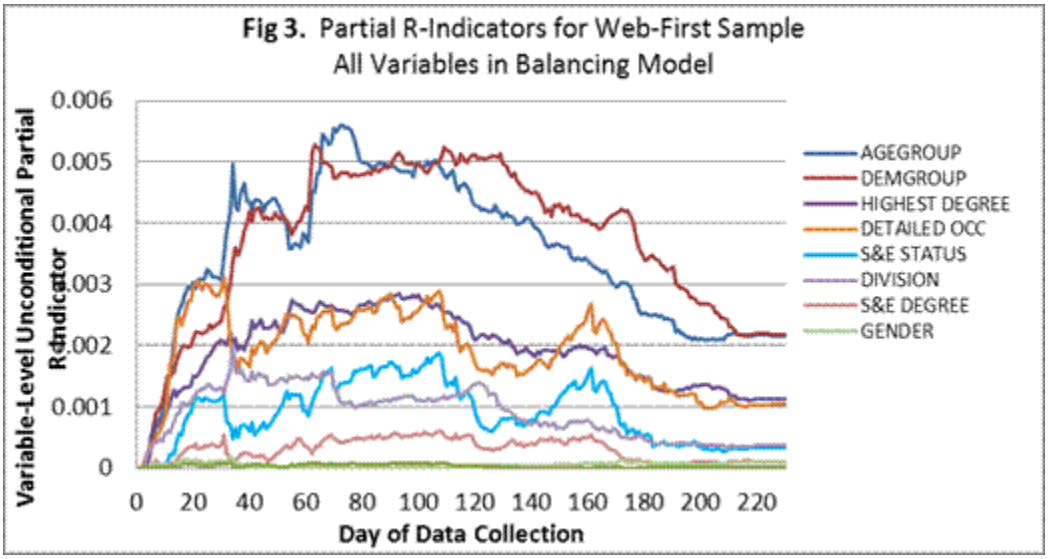


Practically, these plots can also suggest a time to make an intervention. If the response rate is increasing, but the R-indicator is not changing, that means that while more of the sample is responding, the new respondents are not fundamentally different from previous respondents, based on the variables included in the model. A targeted intervention may be necessary to convert non-respondents that would increase representativeness.

Variable Level Unconditional Partial R-Indicators

We can also calculate partial R-indicators to provide a measure of the contribution of a variable to the lack of representativeness in response. Comparing variable-level unconditional R-indicators across variables identifies the variables that contribute the most to the lack of representativeness in response. Variable-level unconditional partial R-indicators can range in value from [0.00, 0.50], with a value of 0.00 meaning that the variable does not contribute at all to the lack of representativeness. If a single variable were to have a value of 0.50, that variable accounts entirely for the lack of representativeness in the model.

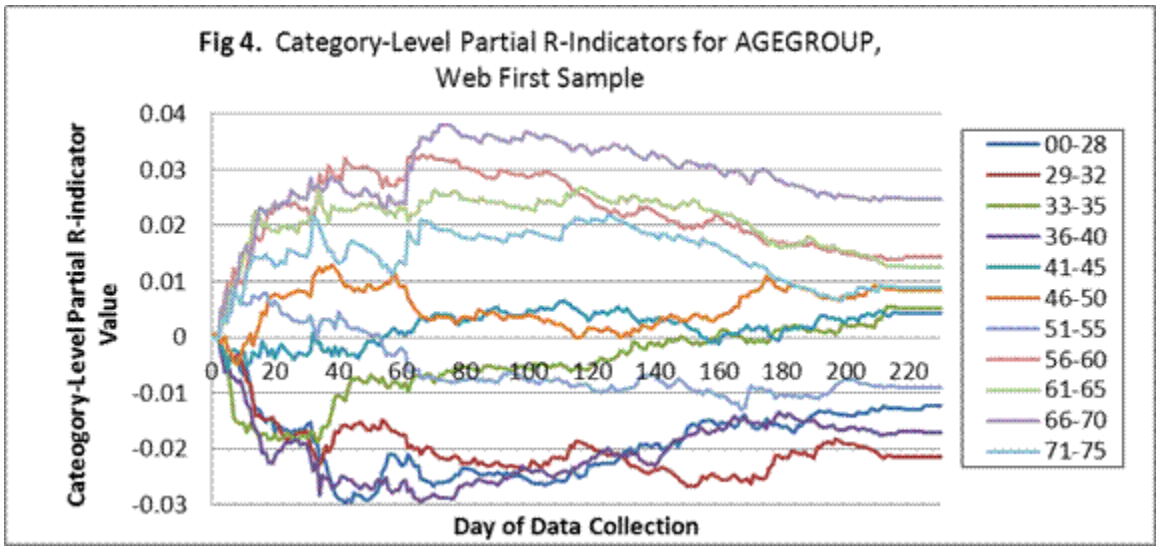
Figure 3 shows the variable-level partial R-indicators for variables in the 2010 balancing propensity model. From this figure, it is evident that the Age Group and Demographic Group variable contributed most to the lack of representativeness in the responding sample throughout the entire data collection effort.



After using the variable-level partial R-indicators to identify the variables contributing most to the lack of representativeness, category-level partial R-indicators, both unconditional and conditional, identify the specific levels of the variable that are impacting representativeness. In addition, since these finer metrics identify the specific characteristics affecting representativeness, they can be used to determine possible interventions.

Category Level Unconditional Partial R-Indicators

Category-level unconditional partial R-indicators measure the over- or under-representativeness of individual subgroups. They can range in value from [-0.50, 0.50], with negative numbers signifying under-representation and positive numbers indicating over-representation. More extreme values are more over- or under-represented, while a value of 0.00 means that the subgroup is not over- or under-represented. Figure 4 shows category-level partial R-indicators for AGEGROUP, one of the two variables most responsible for the variation in balancing propensities in the balancing model, shown in Figure 3. As an example, by Day 60, the 66- to 70-year-olds are the most over-represented group, and remain that way throughout the remainder of data collection. By Day 130, the 29- to 32-year-olds are the most under-represented and also remain that way throughout the remainder of data collection.



Conclusion

Partial R-indicators have three advantage over subgroup response rates. Unlike subgroup response rates, partial R-indicators take into consideration the size of subgroups, allow comparisons to be made at the variable level, and allow for conditioning the effect of any one variable on other variables in a straightforward manor (Schouten et al., 2011).

R-indicators are still an overall measure of data quality and thus do not tie directly to the nonresponse bias of a specific estimate. This is a drawback of any overall measure of data quality. Although R-indicators should not be the only measure of survey quality, they do provide a window into the likelihood of nonresponse bias that may be present in estimates highly correlated with variables in the balancing model. This leads to the second major drawback of R-indicators. R-indicators rely on having a rich set of auxiliary data, which is correlated with variables of interest. In conclusion, R-indicators are a measure that allows us to move away from response rates as the sole measure of data quality. Additionally, R-indicators allow for the comparison between different data collection interventions and enable the implementation of adaptive techniques during data collection.

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Census Bureau Releases Health Insurance Coverage Estimates for All Counties with Interactive Data and Mapping Tool

On August 29, 2013, the Census Bureau released its 2011 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE). The estimates show the number of people with and without health insurance for all states and each of the nation's roughly 3,140 counties. The statistics are provided by broad age group, sex, race and Hispanic origin, and at income levels that reflect thresholds for state and federal assistance programs. The data can be used to assess annual changes in health insurance coverage from 2008 through 2011.

The release includes a 2011 highlights document available at https://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/data/2011/SAHIE_Highlights_2011.pdf that describes demographic and economic differences in health insurance status across states and counties, as well as geographic variation and time trends in health insurance status. The document also includes a number of maps that are available for download from the SAHIE website <https://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/index.html>.

SAHIE can be a useful tool when evaluating the impacts of health care policy changes at the state and county levels. SAHIE provides estimates of the uninsured at incomes 0 to 138 percent of the federal poverty threshold. This group may qualify for Medicaid in participating states. The 0 to 400 percent group provides estimates of the uninsured population that may qualify for the Health Insurance Exchanges or for Medicaid.

SAHIE Interactive Data and Mapping Tool

To make quick evaluations of state-level potential program participants, visit the SAHIE interactive data and mapping tool from the link on the SAHIE website. The tool allows users to create and download state and county custom tables and thematic maps, and state health insurance coverage time trend charts.

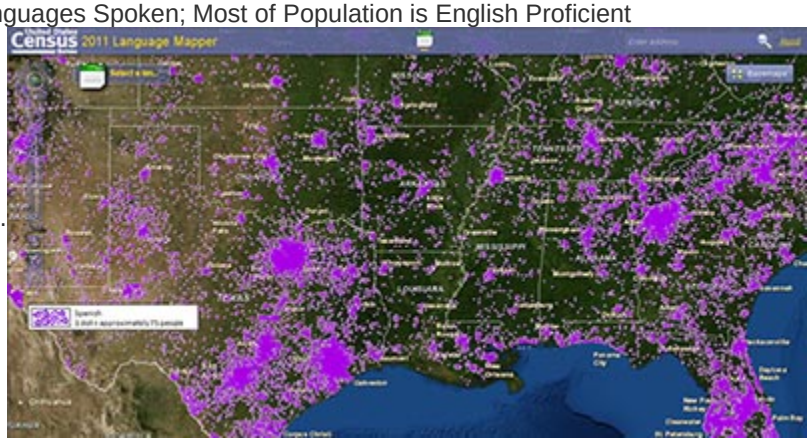
The SAHIE program models health insurance coverage by combining survey data with population estimates and administrative records. Specifically, it uses the American Community Survey, demographic population estimates, aggregated federal tax returns, participation records for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, County Business Patterns, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program participation records, and the 2010 Census.

At present, SAHIE is the only source of health insurance estimates for all counties. There are no county estimates derived from the Current Population Survey. In September, the Census Bureau will release 2012 health insurance coverage estimates for counties with a population of 65,000 or more from the American Community Survey. The following month, similar estimates will be released for counties with a population of 20,000 or more using data collected from 2010 to 2012. In December, for the first time, statistics on health insurance coverage for all areas, regardless of size, will be released based on American Community Survey data collected from 2008 to 2012.

New Census Bureau Interactive Map Shows Languages Spoken in America

Spanish, Chinese Top Non-English Languages Spoken; Most of Population is English Proficient

On August 6, the U.S. Census Bureau released an interactive, online map pinpointing the wide array of languages spoken in homes across the nation, along with a detailed report on rates of English proficiency and the growing number of speakers of other languages.



The *2011 Language Mapper* <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/language-use/tool.html> shows where people speaking specific languages other than English live, with dots representing how many people speak each of 15 different languages. For each language, the mapper shows the concentration of those who report that they speak English less than "very well," a measure of English proficiency. The tool uses data collected through the American Community Survey from 2007 to 2011.

"This map makes it easy for anyone to plan language services in their community," said Nancy Potok, the Census Bureau's acting director. "Businesses can tailor communications to meet their customers' needs. Emergency responders can use it to be sure they communicate with people who need help. Schools and libraries can offer courses to improve English proficiency and offer materials written in other languages."

The languages available in the interactive map include Spanish, French, French Creole, Italian, Portuguese, German, Russian, Polish, Persian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Arabic. After selecting one of these languages from the menu, users will see a national population density map, with each dot representing about 100 people who speak the language at home placed where these speakers are concentrated. The map also allows users to zoom in to a smaller geographic area, where each dot represents 10 people. The dots were placed in a random location within census tracts to protect the confidentiality of speakers.

Increase in Non-English Speakers

A report released at the same time, *Language Use in the United States: 2011* <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/acs-22.pdf>, details the number of people speaking languages other than English at home and their ability to speak English, by selected social and demographic characteristics. It shows that more than half (58 percent) of U.S. residents 5 and older who speak a language other than English at home also speak English "very well." The data, taken from the American Community Survey, are provided for the nation, states and metropolitan and micropolitan areas.

The report shows that the percent speaking English "less than very well" grew from 8.1 percent in 2000 to 8.7 percent in 2007, but stayed at 8.7 percent in 2011. The percent speaking a language other than English at home went from 17.9 percent in 2000 to 19.7 percent in 2007, while continuing upward to 20.8 percent in 2011. "This study provides evidence of the growing role of languages other than English in the national fabric," said Camille Ryan, a statistician in the Census Bureau's Education and Social Stratification Branch and the report's author. "Yet, at the same time that more people are speaking languages other than English at home, the percentage of people speaking English proficiently has remained steady."

Of the 60.6 million people who spoke a language other than English at home in 2011, almost two-thirds (37.6 million) spoke Spanish.

Reflecting the overall trend, the percentage speaking Spanish at home grew from 12.0 percent in 2005 to 12.9 percent in 2011. In contrast to the overall trend, however, the percent who spoke Spanish at home but spoke English "less than very well" declined from 5.7 percent to 5.6 percent over the period.

The recent increase in non-English speakers continues a trend dating back three decades. Between 1980 and 2010, the number of people speaking a language other than English climbed 158 percent, compared with 38 percent for the overall population 5 and older. The seven-fold increase in Vietnamese speakers was the highest percentage jump among 17 of the most common languages, while Spanish speakers posted the largest numerical gain (25.9 million). In contrast, the number speaking Italian, German, Polish, Yiddish and Greek declined over the period.

State and Local Government Finances Discussed on CSPAN

Jeffrey Barnett, Chief of the Local Government Finance and Statistics Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau, discussed statistics about state and local government finances, including public pensions, on August 9 on the “America by the Numbers” series on C-SPAN’s “Washington Journal.”

Jeffrey highlighted data that address issues such as the components of state & local government total revenue, changes in selected taxes and expenditures for state & local governments, and where money for state public pension systems is invested.

The 11 slides that Jeffrey used in his presentation can be viewed at: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/cspan/gov_finances/ >.

The video of his C-SPAN program can be seen at:
< http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/StateandLo>.

My Congressional District Web App

The U.S. Census Bureau has released My Congressional District, the first interactive tool geared exclusively toward finding basic demographic and economic statistics for every congressional district in the United States. This Web app uses the latest annual statistics from the American Community Survey, providing the most detailed portrait of America's towns and neighborhoods.

Access My Congressional District at: https://www.census.gov/mycd/ to view data on population, age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and more.

My Congressional District is powered by the American Community Survey and Census Application Programming Interface (API).

Recent and Upcoming Data Releases

September 2013

Demographic

School Enrollment in the United States: 2012 — September 3. National-level tables from the Current Population Survey on the characteristics of children and adults enrolled in school at all levels ─ from nursery to graduate school. Among the characteristics examined are age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, nativity and foreign-born parentage.

School Enrollment in the United States: 2011 — September 3. Report examines the characteristics of people enrolled in school at all levels using statistics from the Current Population Survey, American Community Survey and federal sources outside the Census Bureau. It covers some topics not typically covered in Census Bureau reports, such as Head Start, charter schools, home schooling and receipt of financial aid. Mostly national-level data, but contains a limited amount at the state level.

Extended Measures of Well-Being: Living Conditions in the United States: 2011 —September 5. Presents national-level data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation on a variety of such measures. These include possession of specific types of appliances and electronic goods, housing conditions, neighborhood conditions and community services, the ability to meet basic needs and the expectation of help in meeting these needs — if necessary — from friends, family and the community. These measures are compared by various demographic characteristics, as well as over time.

Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage: 2012 — On September 17 at 10 a.m. EDT, the Census Bureau will hold a Web news conference to announce findings from the official report on income, poverty and health insurance coverage for the nation based on the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the 2013 Current Population Survey. The Web conference will consist of a simultaneous audio conference and online presentation. Web conference information will be available closer to the conference date.

American Community Survey (ACS)

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Employment Reports - September 9. Two reports will examine the characteristics of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math workforce. One highlights changes in STEM employment by sex, race and Hispanic origin from 1970 to 2011. The second report looks at the relationship between science and engineering education and employment in a STEM occupation. Along with the reports, table packages and an infographic will be released. These statistics are based on 2011 American Community Survey data and have not been compiled by the Census Bureau since the 1970s.

Married-Couple Households by Nativity Status: 2011 — September 5. This brief, based on data collected from the American Community Survey, examines the number and geographic distribution of mixed-nativity married-couple households in the United States. Three types of married-couple households are considered: the husband and wife are both native-born; both are born outside the U.S.; and at least one spouse is foreign-born.

American Community Survey: 2012 — Data collected in 2012 from the nation's most comprehensive survey provide statistics on more than 40 demographic, socio-economic and housing topics. Some of the topics covered include income, poverty, health insurance, educational attainment, the commute to work, the foreign-born population, language spoken at home, ancestry, occupation, number of vehicles available and housing costs. These statistics will be available for the nation, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, every congressional district and all counties, places and metropolitan areas with populations of 65,000 or more. In addition to the statistics available from the American FactFinder data tool, a set of analytical briefs with American Community Survey statistics will be available on income, poverty and health insurance coverage.

Economic

Industry Statistics Portal —September 3. This new Web application, which replaces the existing Industry Statistics Sampler, provides easy access to all Census Bureau programs that release statistics for a user-selected industry, as classified by the North American Industry Classification System. Census Bureau business and industry statistics dating back to 1997 (according to the 2007 classification) will be available on the new application. The Industry Statistics Portal provides direct links to the relevant statistics released on American FactFinder, as well as a direct link to the Industry Snapshot for the industry. The application also provides industry definitions and information on historical comparability.

Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions for 2013: 2nd Quarter — This quarterly 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/>. (Scheduled for release Sept. 23.)

Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue for 2013: 2nd Quarter — 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/>.(Scheduled for release on Sept. 24.)

August 2013

Demographic

Income and Earnings Estimates for 1st Quarter 2012 — August 6. Using the two most recent waves (11 and 12) from the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation panel, this table package presents income and earnings estimates at the individual, family and household level for the first quarter (January, February and March) of 2012. Quarterly estimates by selected demographic characteristics, such as gender, race/ethnicity, age, marital status and highest level of educational attainment are also provided. In addition, this table package presents monthly income and earnings estimates for individuals, families and households. Internet addresses:

Main page: <https://www.census.gov/sipp/tables/quarterly-est.html>
Income page: <https://www.census.gov/sipp/tables/quarterly-est/income/income-12.html>
Earnings page: <https://www.census.gov/sipp/tables/quarterly-est/earnings/earnings-12.html>

America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2012 — August 27. Report uses data from the 2012 Current Population Survey and 2011 American Community Survey to provide an updated picture of the composition of families and households and describe living arrangements in the U.S. It discusses topics such as the effect of the recession on families, young adults living in their parents' home, same-sex couple households and stay-at-home parents.

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE): 2011 — August 29. The estimates show the number of people with and without health insurance coverage for all states and each of the nation's roughly 3,140 counties. The statistics are provided by broad age group, sex, race and Hispanic origin, and at income levels that reflect thresholds for state and federal assistance programs. The SAHIE program is the only source of single-year health insurance estimates for every county in the U.S.

American Community Survey

2011 Language Mapper — August 6. Illustrates the geographic concentration of speakers of 15 individual languages, such as Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic. The mapper, which uses data collected during the American Community Survey from 2007 to 2011, 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. Internet address:
<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/language-use/tool.html>.

Language Use in the United States: 2011 — August 6. The 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. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/education/cb13-143.html>.

2010 Census

Online Availability of 113th Congressional District Wall Maps — August 14. The individual 113th congressional district wall maps show the boundaries of the each district along with city, town, county, American Indian reservation and state boundaries. The maps also include major features such as roads, rivers and military installations. Each map has a profile of the district based on data from the 2010 Census. Each map is 27" x 40" and can be found on the 113th Congressional District Wall Maps website. Maps are available for each of the 435 congressional districts.

Economic

Annual Survey of Public Pensions: State- and Locally-Administered Defined Benefit Data Summary Report: 2011 — August 22. This report provides statistics on revenues, expenditures, financial assets and membership information for public employee retirement systems. Statistics are shown for retirement systems at the national, state and local government level. This publication presents data on public pension systems based on information collected from the 2011 Annual Survey of Public Pensions: State- and Locally-Administered Defined Benefit Data. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/governments/cb13-tps79.html>.

Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll Summary Report: 2011 — August 22. This summary report provides statistics from the revised 2011 estimates for the employment of nearly 90,000 state and local governments in the United States. It shows statistics on the number of state and local government civilian employees and their gross payrolls for the month of March 2011. Statistics include government functions such as education, fire protection and police protection. Statistics are available for the nation and individual states. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/governments/cb13-tps79.html>.

Updates to Census Bureau's TIGER Products — August 22. The Census Bureau's Geography Division released two sets of Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing products this week: the 2013 TIGER/Line shapefiles and the TIGER geodatabases. Both are extracts of the Master Address File/TIGER database and can be used with Geographic Information System software to map census geographic areas and features such as roads and rivers. The TIGER/Line shapefiles are updated yearly, and this version includes a new coastline feature. The TIGER geodatabases include national- and state-based files often requested by customers and provide the ability to download multiple layers in a single file. Both the 2013 TIGER/Line shapefiles and the TIGER geodatabases can be downloaded from the TIGER Products web page.

2011 Business Dynamics Statistics — August 1. This U.S. Census Bureau brief highlights the most recent update to the Business Dynamics Statistics, which found that young firms were disproportionally affected in the recent recession, particularly in states with large declines in home prices. The report concludes that declines in home prices compounded the negative impact of the recession on job creation and growth and that this is important to understanding the depth of the decline and the status of the recovery. The Business Dynamics Statistics provide annual statistics from 1976 to 2011 by firm age and size, which is crucial to understanding current and historical U.S. entrepreneurial activity. The statistics come from a collaboration between the Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the largest American nonprofit organization that focuses on entrepreneurship. Internet address: <http://www.kauffman.org/bds> Further information on the Business Dynamics Statistics release can be found at <https://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/bds/data.html>.

2012 Census of Governments: Finance — Survey of Public Pensions: State-Administered Defined Benefit Data — August 1. Provides a comprehensive look at the financial activity of the nation's state-administered defined benefit retirement systems, including cash and investment holdings, receipts, payments, and membership information. Shows employee and government contributions as well as pension obligations. Statistics are shown at the national level and for individual states. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/governments/cb13-tps76.html>.

July 2013

American Community Survey

When Off-Campus College Students are Excluded, Poverty Rates Fall in Many College Towns — July 29. A new working paper, Examining the Effect of Off-Campus College Students on Poverty Rates, found significant changes to poverty rates when off-campus students were excluded, especially for cities with large student populations. The paper, from data collected during the American Community Survey from 2009 to 2011, analyzes the impact of college students who are not living with relatives on the poverty rates of states, counties, and places where the schools are located. Forty-nine cities (with populations greater than 100,000) had significant declines in poverty rates when off-campus college students were excluded. The working paper includes an extensive set of tables showing poverty rates with and without off-campus college students for all states and for all counties and places with populations greater than 20,000. For more information, read the Random Samplings blog post. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/poverty/cb13-tps73.html>.