ACrDC Newsletter
A report of activities of the Atlanta Census Research Data Center
aysps.gsu.edu/acrdc

ACrDC Breaks Ground
On June 2, the Atlanta Fed began construction of the physical space that will become the Atlanta Census Research Data Center. Construction is expected to be completed by mid July.

ACRDC Executive Director, Julie Hotchkiss, discussing last minute details with contractors.

Spotlight on Data: Disability Research
Several data sets available through the RDC are useful for research on topics related to disabilities. The American Community Survey (ACS), 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), and Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) all ask survey respondents some variation of questions related to physical and/or mental disabilities.

Advantages of accessing the confidential version of these surveys through an RDC is the identification of respondents at the block level (vs. tract level identification available in the public-use versions), nearly non-existent top and bottom coding of the data, data in its "raw" form (no imputations), and the ability to link across data products (the ACS with the NHIS, for example).

Further information about these data sets in an RDC can be found at:
CES Demographic Data: http://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/demographicdata.html
NCHS Research Data Center: http://www.cdc.gov/rdc/
MEPS Restricted Data: http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/onsite_datacenter.jsp

ACRDC Members: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emory University, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, University of Alabama-Birmingham, University of Georgia
RDC Project Consultant Hired

Because of the ongoing wrangling over Federal budgets, the hiring of Melissa Banzhaf (right) as the ACRDC Census Administrator is taking much longer than anticipated. As the paperwork makes its way up the many layers of Census, the ACRDC has hired Melissa directly as Project Consultant. Her job is to assist researchers in their development of RDC proposals. Until she becomes the official Administrator, final proposal submission will be coordinated through other centers. You may reach Melissa by phone (404-498-8780) or by email (Melissa.Banzhaf@atl.frb.org). She wants to hear about your project ideas and help you get started with developing a proposal.

News from CES


The Science of Science & Innovation Policy (SciSIP) program supports research designed to advance the scientific basis of science and innovation policy. Research funded by the program thus develops, improves and expands models, analytical tools, data and metrics that can be applied in the science policy decision making process. For example, research proposals may develop behavioral and analytical conceptualizations, frameworks or models that have applications across a broad array of SciSIP challenges, including the relationship between broader participation and innovation or creativity. Proposals may also develop methodologies to analyze science and technology data, and to convey the information to a variety of audiences. Researchers are also encouraged to create or improve science and engineering data, metrics and indicators reflecting current discovery, particularly proposals that demonstrate the viability of collecting and analyzing data on knowledge generation and innovation in organizations.

Among the many research topics supported are:

- examinations of the ways in which the contexts, structures and processes of science and engineering research are affected by policy decision,
- the evaluation of the tangible and intangible returns from investments in science and from investments in research and development,
- the study of structures and processes that facilitate the development of usable knowledge, theories of creative processes and their transformation into social and economic outcomes,
- the collection, analysis and visualization of new data describing the scientific and engineering enterprise.

Projects and Proposals

Check out the ACRDC web site (aysps.gsu.edu/acrdc) for information and links that facilitate proposal writing. Please keep Julie Hotchkiss posted about proposals being developed and plans to begin writing a proposal.

Georgia Institute of Technology:
"Travel Patterns" by Laurie Garrow
"Industrial Classification of Innovative Firms" by Diana Hicks

In production
University of Georgia:
"How is the Migration of High Skilled Workers Affected by Economic and Non-economic Factors?" by Jeffrey Dorman and Warren Brown
"Home Equity Lending and Small Business: Relaxing Credit constraints in Texas"
by Chadi Abdallah, William Lastrapes, and Ian Schmutte

Emory University:
"Soft Drink Taxes and Childhood Obesity"
by David Frisvold, Jason Fletcher, and Nathan Tefft
"The Effect of Educational Quality on Health Outcomes in Later Life"
by David Frisvold and Ezra Golberstein
"Trends in the Determinants of Race/Ethnic Disparities in Child Health"
by Neil Mehta, Hedy Lee, and Kelly Ylitalo
"The Contribution of Obesity to International Differences in Life Expectancy"
by Neil Mehta, Samuel Preston, and Andrew Stokes

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta:
"Primary and Secondary Employment Impacts of Local Economic Development Projects"
by Christopher Cunningham, Julie Hotchkiss, and Melinda Pitts
"Uncertainty and Financial Frictions" by Tao Zha and Kaiji Chen (Emory)
"The Relationship between Foreclosures and Small Business Survival"
by Gustavo Canavire, Karen Leone de Nie, and Myriam Quispe-Agnoli
"When Does Job Loss Lead to Divorce?" by Melissa Ruby Banzhaf

Georgia State University:
"Response Bias in Earnings in the Current Population Survey"
by Christopher Bollinger and Barry Hirsch

Louisiana State University:
"Assessing the Impact of Misreporting Medicaid Status on Measures of the Uninsured"
by Dek Terrell

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga:
"Higher Education Opportunities and Local Employment Conditions"
by Michaël Bonnal

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