Project Statistics

- Over 350 monthly snapshots of the US population spanning the 1962-2014 period
- Over 75 million records
- Over 1,500 variables
- …and counting!
CPS Use for Social and Economic Research

Number of Articles Using CPS, 2002-2015

- **Demography**: 187
- **American Economic Review**: 105
- **Journal of Labor Economics**: 88
- **American Sociological Review**: 55
- **Journal of Political Economy**: 44

Source: Google Scholar, accessed 6/1/15
What is CPS?

- Monthly survey of housing units conducted jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Primary source of information about U.S. employment and unemployment
- 4-8-4 interview design
- More than the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (most widely used by social scientists and policymakers)
Basic Monthly Data

Minnesota Population Center
Basic Monthly Data

- **Contents**
  - ~50,000 households surveyed each month
  - Demographic information
  - Employment information

- **Currently available via IPUMS**
  - Monthly data from 1989-2013

- **Future availability via IPUMS**
Supplement Data
ASEC (aka March Supplement)

- 1962-present
- Topics
  - Labor force participation and unemployment
  - Work experience and educational attainment
  - Sources of income including non-cash benefits
  - Program participation
  - Tax filing status
  - Health Insurance
  - Migration
Other Supplement Work

- Computer & Internet Use (1997-2012)
- Displaced Worker (1996-2012)
- Education (1989-2010)
- Fertility (1990-2012)
- Food Security (1995-2013)
- Job Tenure (1996-2012)
- Tobacco Use (1992-2011)
- Veterans (1995-2013)
- Volunteer (2002-2013)
- Voting and Registration (1996-2012)
Future Supplements

• Civic Engagement
• Contingent Workers
• Disability
• International Migration
• Public Participation in the Arts
• Unemployment Insurance
• Unbanked/Underbanked households
Linked Data
CPS as Repeated Cross Sections because…

• Records are difficult to link across months

• Complex sample design complicates longitudinal analyses

• Linking requires manipulation of many different files

• Integration of variables over time is challenging
CPSID for Linking CPS Data

• An IPUMS-created ID variable that makes “mechanical” matches
• Unique across the entire series of data
• A time-saving alternative to navigating different coding schemes, linking keys, and the CPS rotation pattern on your own
• Fully documented in Drew, Flood, & Warren 2014 (Journal of Economic and Social Measurement)
Examples
Linking the Same Month Across Two Consecutive Years

• Why would researchers want to use this design?
  o Studying year-to-year change, e.g.:
    • earnings and employment dynamics,
    • geographic mobility,
    • movement into and out of labor unions

• For the 1994-forward period, researchers can expect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March 1994-1995</th>
<th>March 2009-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linked N</td>
<td>48,140</td>
<td>53,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention Rate</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Linking the Full Eight Months for a Single Cohort

• Why would researchers want to use this design?
  o Short-term economic dynamics as a function of social and demographic characteristics
  o Explorations of how these dynamics have changed over time

• For the 1994-forward period, researchers can expect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cohort Entering January 1994</th>
<th>Cohort Entering January 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linked N</td>
<td>10,069</td>
<td>11,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention Rate</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upcoming Major Initiatives

• Basic Monthly and Supplement data forward and backward in time (ASEC 1962 forward; Basics 1976 forward)

• Additional linking IDs

• Weights for linked data
Acknowledgements

- NIH/NICHD R01HD067258

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Questions?