

Federal Statistical Research Data Centers

Barbara Downs

Director, Federal Statistical Research Data Centers

US Census Bureau

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U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

Outline

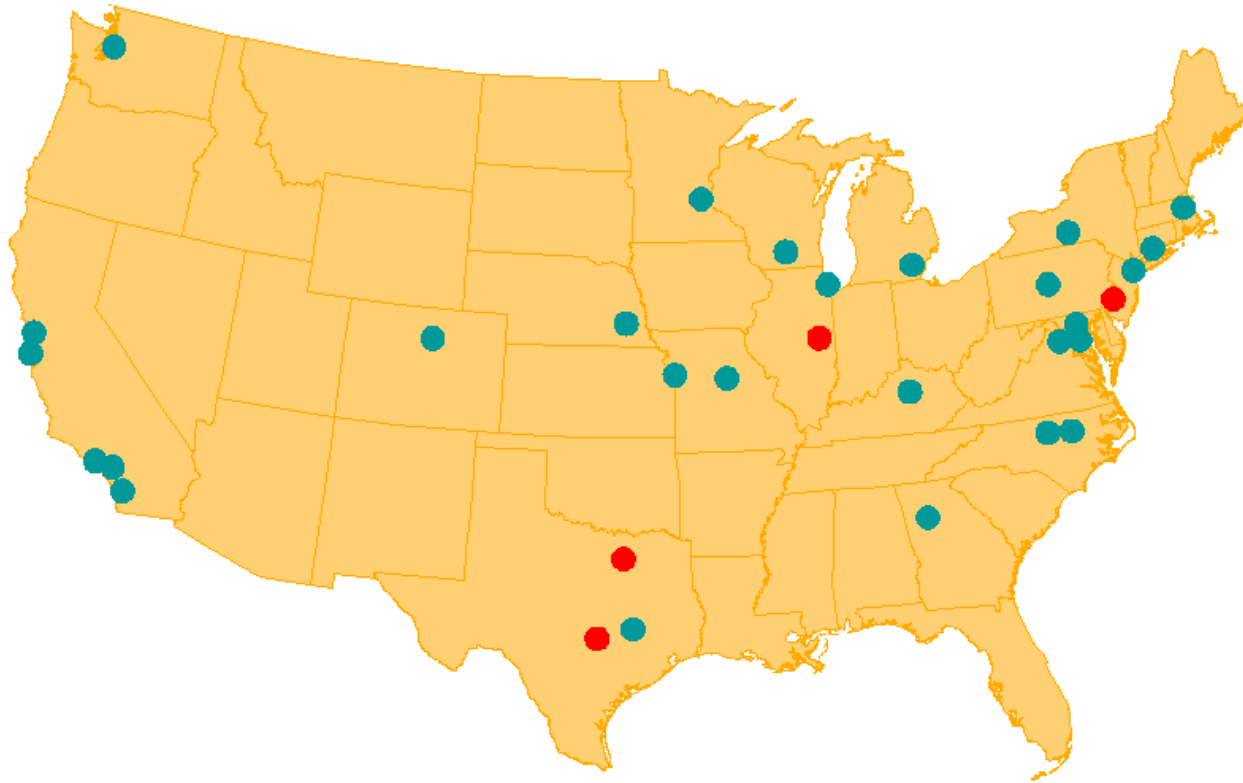
- Purpose, Operations, and Oversight
- Data and Research Proposals
- Environment
 - Physical
 - Collaboration
 - Disclosure Avoidance Review

PURPOSE, OPERATIONS, and OVERSIGHT

Purpose

- Partnerships in operation 30 years
- To increase
 - Transparency
 - Efficiency
 - Use of federal statistical microdata
- Census-NSF partnership (1998) to establish formal RDC application criteria and procedures
- AHRQ and NCHS joined RDC program in mid-2000's

Current RDC Locations



Partnerships

- Our partners in academia and government conduct research to:
 - Improve data collections
 - Inform public debate
 - Serve the mission of federal and state governments

Role

- To facilitate research for a *statistical* purpose
- To increase access to a wide variety of microdata
- To improve the utility and quality of federal statistics
- To address policy questions
- To understand the factors shaping our economy and society

FSRDCs Today

- January 2015 - Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) approves rebranding of Census RDCs to Federal Statistical RDCs
- AHRQ, NCHS, BLS, and Census make their data available to approved researchers through their restricted-access data programs
- Additional statistical agencies are considering, or are in process of, supplementing their restricted-access data programs by joining the FSRDCs

ICSP Members

- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Economic Research Service*
- **U.S. Census Bureau***
- **National Center for Health Statistics***
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics***
- Bureau of Justice Statistics*
- National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics*
- National Center for Education Statistics*
- Office of Management and Budget
- Energy Information Agency*
- Social Security Administration*
- National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics*
- Statistics of Income*

Operations and Oversight (1 of 2)

- Governance
 - Executive Committee
 - Membership
 - Overall direction of program
 - Policies
 - Procedures
 - Technical Committees
 - Budget
 - Harmonization

Operations and Oversight (2 of 2)

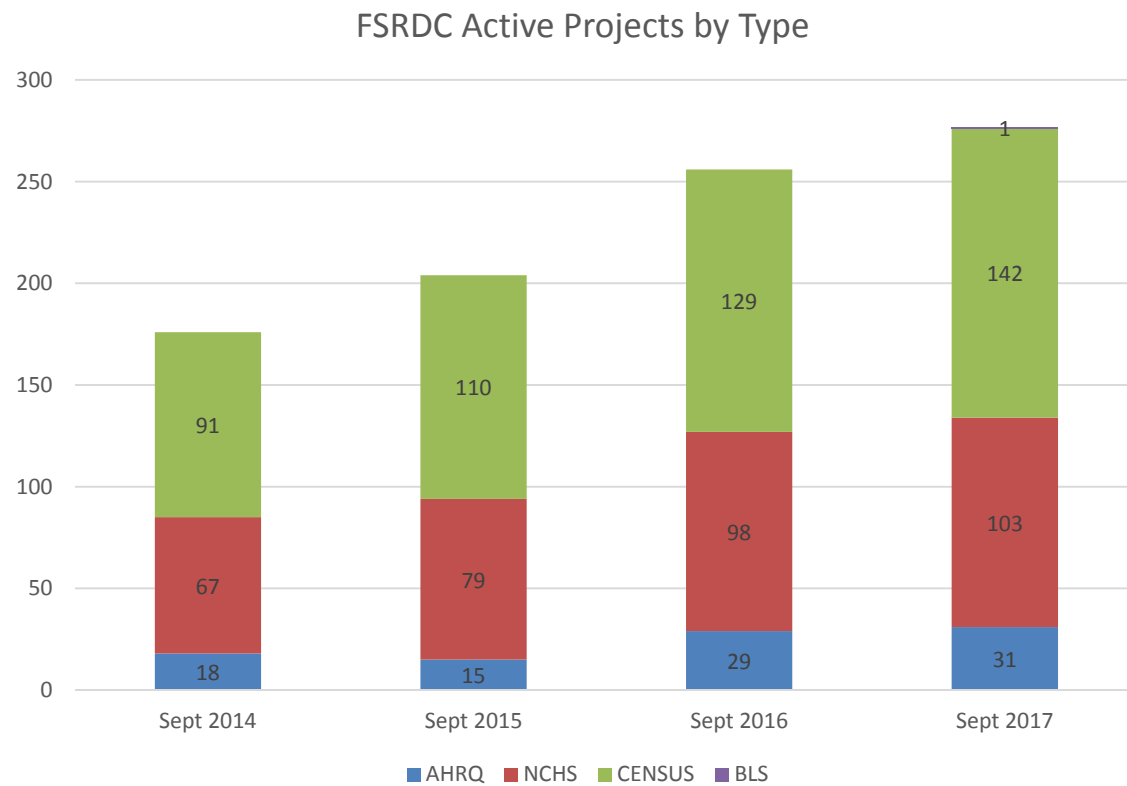
- Program Management Office
 - Housed at Census Bureau
 - Manage daily operations and coordination across agencies
 - Staffing
 - IT
 - Physical Security
 - Legal agreements

DATA and PROPOSALS

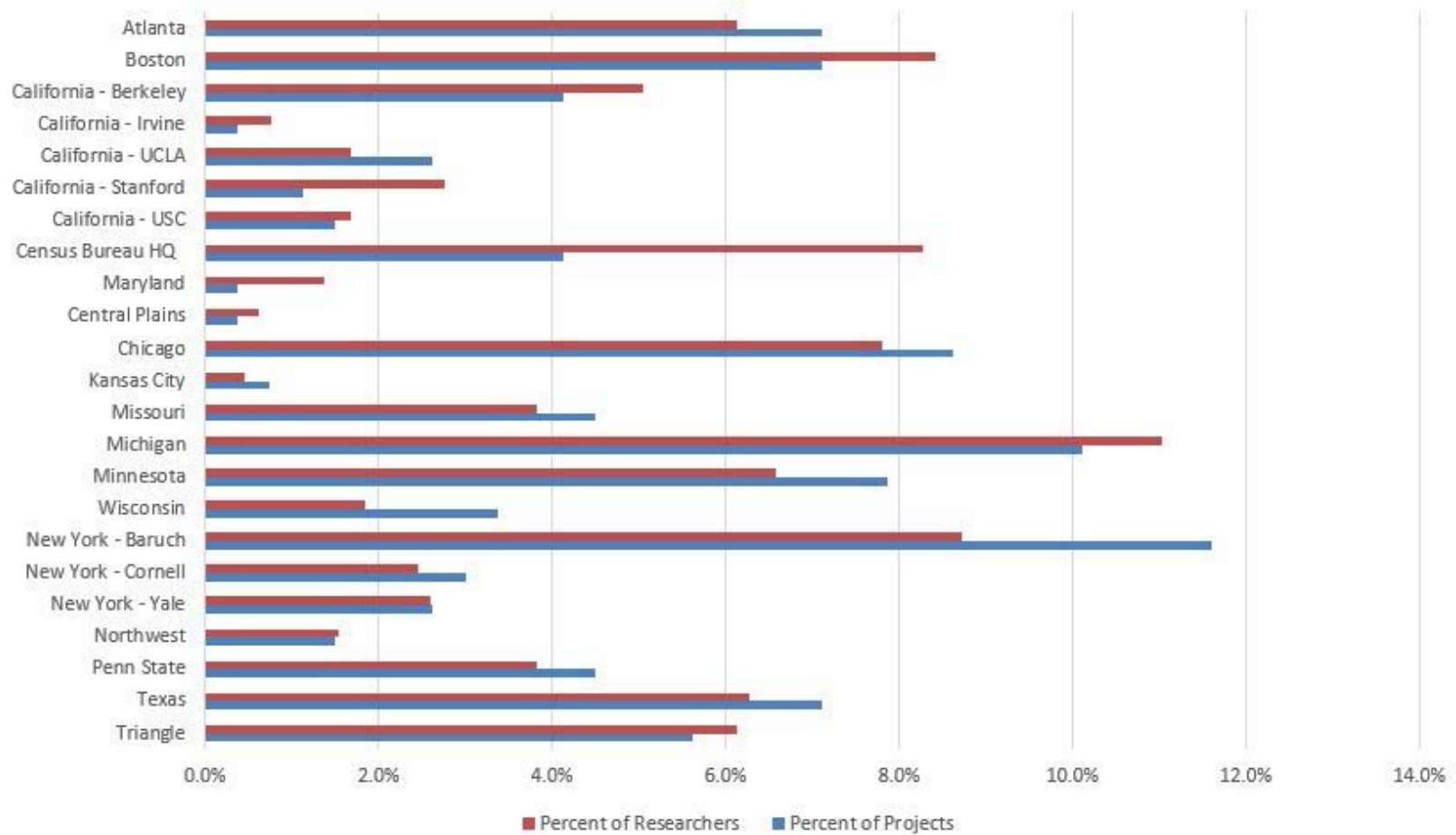
Project Proposals

- Each partner agency has its own proposal review and disclosure avoidance review processes
 - AHRQ meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/onsite_datacenter.jsp
 - NCHS www.cdc.gov/rdc/B2AccessMod/ACs220.htm
 - Census www.census.gov/ces/rdcresearch
 - BLS <https://www.bls.gov/rda/apply.htm>
- All projects tracked in Census Bureau's project management system

Projects by Agency



Projects by Location



267 Projects; 653 Researchers

Protections

- Confidentiality
 - Title 13 (Census), Title 15 (NCHS) and Title 26 (IRS) U.S. Code
 - Privacy Act
 - Confidential Information Protection Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA)
- Substantial penalties for violation

ENVIRONMENT

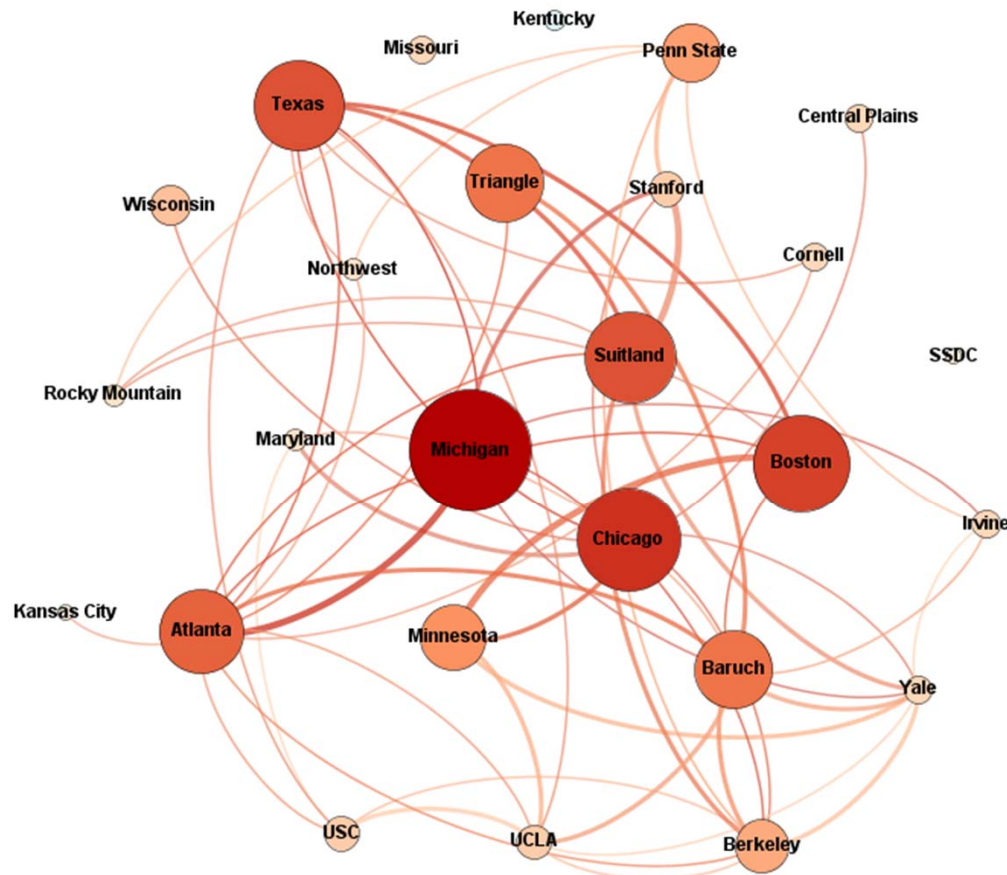
Physical Security (1 of 2)

- Secure Census facility within host institution
- Census employee on-site at all FSRDCs
- Authorized personnel only
- Researcher Special Sworn Status
 - Requires moderate level background check
 - Oath of confidentiality is for life

Physical Security (2 of 2)

- Data accessed via secure connection from thin client device to Census data facility in Bowie, MD
- Printing strictly controlled
- No internet access
- Mandatory disclosure avoidance review of all output
- Data are stripped of PII and (some) BII; Name, Address, DOB, SSN are replaced with Protected Identification Key (PIK); business data delivered with alphanumeric IDs only

Collaboration



Note: Graph includes external projects. Node (FSRDC) size and color are proportional to the number of sponsored projects. Edge thickness and color are proportional to the number of projects on which each pair of FSRDCs collaborate.

Summary

- Collaboration
 - Multi-partner governance structure
- Benefits
 - Improved data products
 - New survey measurements
- Growth
 - New partners
 - New locations
 - New modes of access

More Information

- Federal Statistical Research Data Centers
 - www.census.gov/fsrdc
- Contact info:
 - barbara.a.downs@census.gov