Census Bureau Experiences in Obtaining State
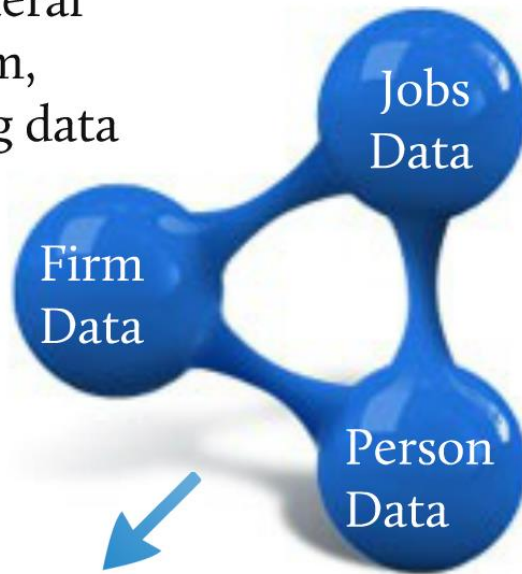# UI and SNAP Data

Ron Jarmin

U.S. Census Bureau

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Building data systems by merging administrative and survey data: The LEHD program at US Census Bureau

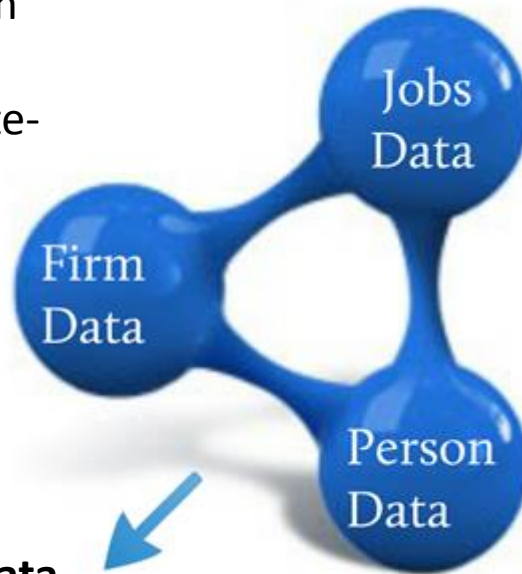An innovative federal statistical program, collecting existing data and ...

Jobs Data

Firm Data

Person Data

..linking it together to provide new information sources at low cost

New linked national jobs data for the U.S.

The LEHD data:

Firm data: *survey* data on firms from both Census economic programs and state-provided QCEW.

Jobs data: *administrative* data on jobs from <u>state unemployment insurance systems</u>. Key record for linking firm and person data.

Linked employer-employee microdata

New public use statistics tabulated from linked frame

Person data: demographics of workers sourced from mix of Census *survey* and SSA and IRS *administrative* data.

How the data are brought together:

Unique state/federal data sharing partnership

- 49 states (& DC) share unemployment insurance wage records and QCEW data with Census
- Census LEHD staff links administrative data from state and federal sources with survey data, produces new statistics from the linked data

Advantages:

- Leverage existing survey data with administrative data allows production of new statistics at low cost with no additional respondent burden

Challenges:

- Cleaning and linking data across various sources
- Partnerships with other agencies can end (WY recently withdrew), threatening the viability of the statistical program

Social welfare program data

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- Low income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
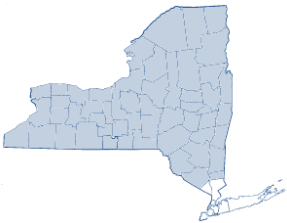
Pursuing social welfare data

… like LEHD

Pursuing agreements with each state for each program

Steady progress, from 1 agreement in 2013 to 14 today

Delivering statistical products to states

… unlike LEHD

No federal collection that compels standardization within state data systems

Offering states reimbursement for data extraction

Disinterest and distrust from some states

State program data acquisition status

- ☐ Arizona – WIC
- ☐ Colorado – SNAP, TANF, WIC, LEAP
- ☐ Florida – SNAP, TANF
- ☑ Hawaii – SNAP
- ☑ Illinois – SNAP
- ☑ Kentucky – SNAP, TANF
- ☑ Maryland – SNAP, TANF
- ☐ Nevada – SNAP, TANF, WIC
- ☑ New Jersey – SNAP, TANF
- ☑ New York – SNAP, TANF
- ☑ Oregon – SNAP
- ☐ Tennessee – SNAP, TANF
- ☑ Virginia – SNAP
- ☑ Wisconsin – TANF

> Checked boxes indicate that the state has delivered data. CO and NV have delivered data for some but not all programs.