Comments for Session IV: Tailoring the Group Quarters Questionnaire

Barbara A. Anderson
University of Michigan
(barba@umich.edu)

NAS Workshop
March 8, 2016
Acknowledgments

These comments are based on the work of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee Working Group on Group Quarters in the ACS (myself, Robert Hummer, University of North Carolina and Irma Elo, University of Pennsylvania were members) and discussions with ACS staff.
Suggestions for Consideration

1. Make internet version of ACS available to non-institutional GQ respondents (college dorms, military barracks, group homes).
2. Ask a short list of items of institutional GQ respondents that can be filled out by administrators. Perhaps can eliminate paper form for institutional GQs.
3. Flag imputed cases and values in ACS PUMS.
4. Include more information in ACS PUMS file on GQ type beyond institutional/non-institutional.
1: Format and Questions for non-Institutional GQs

• Now a CAPI interviewer or a paper form collects data for all GQ respondents.
• Non-institutional GQs comprise 46% of GQ respondents.
• College students and military personnel comprise 79% of non-institutional GQ respondents. They are computer savvy groups.
• Other non-institutional GQs include shelters, group homes, adult residential treatment centers and religious group quarters.
• Allowing non-institutional GQ respondents to answer over the internet should lower costs and improve data quality.
• It seems that non-institutional GQs should be treated the same or virtually the same as non-GQ respondents, substantially reducing problems with obtaining data from GQ respondents.
2: Questions for Institutional GQs

- Perhaps only a short set of items should be collected for the institutionalized GQ population.
- It should be considered whether only age, sex, race, ethnicity, and educational attainment should be collected for the institutionalized GQ population. Perhaps these data could be obtained completely from administrative sources or filled out by administrators.
- This could eliminate the need for a paper form for institutional GQs, something that has caused considerable problems.
3: Imputation

- If only a small set of items is collected for institutional GQ respondents, imputation strategies need to be rethought.
- It should be decided whether to impute values for other items or just to leave them missing. This may be different for ACS PUMS data than for estimates of some items for the entire population, which include the GQ population.
- In the ACS PUMS file, there should be an imputation tag for an entire imputed GQ respondent and for specific imputed variables. This is not done now.
- There should be consideration of whether there should be a maximum number of times a particular respondent is used for imputation. There is no current limit.
4: ACS PUMS Data

• Currently the only breakdown available on GQ type in ACS PUMS data is institutionalized/non-institutionalized.
• Including a variable with a more detailed breakdown of GQ type in the ACS PUMS data should be considered.
Thank you