



Comments on Presentation by Amy O'hara

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Realistic goals for using admin records to reduce respondent burden in the ACS

Minimize (respondent burden)

subject to

data quality \geq current ACS data quality

→ Maintains current data quality while minimizing the burden on respondents

Maximize (data quality)

subject to

Respondent burden \leq target level of respondent burden

→ Achieves a desired level of respondent burden while maximizing data quality

How is respondent burden defined and how is it measured?

- Bradburn's (1978) definition includes
 - Interview length and frequency
 - Level of effort and/or perceived difficulty
 - Psychological impacts
- Indicators may be
 - Unit response rates
 - Item response rates
 - Respondent feedback on cognitive/physical effort, sensitivity
 - Time to complete, frequency, number of questions, etc

How is data quality defined?

- Total survey error approach – data quality is improved when *total survey error* is reduced
- Some error sources that are relevant for use of admin records are:
 - Specification error: does the record measure the same concept as the survey
 - Measurement error: how does reliability compare between record and survey measurements
 - Coverage error: particularly within hh's (e.g. residency rules)
 - Missing data: is missing data increased by using admin records
 - Modeling error: how much error is added by indirect uses of missing data

Some questions to consider

- What definition of respondent burden should be used?
 - What are its key indicators?
- How should data quality be measured?
- What is ACS respondent burden today? Has it changed over the years?
- What is the goal?
 - Max (data quality) s.t. respondent burden \leq some target value
 - Min (respondent burden) s.t. quality \geq current quality
- Other methods for reducing burden being considered?
 - E.g., survey harmonization and integration